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MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2005

平成22年4月9日 第三種郵便物認可（4月10日1月23日及び12月26日休刊）
発行所 星条閣印刷所 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号

50¢

“The hodgepodge of dress mirrored the mix of sects, religions and ethnicity — Shiites, Sunnis, Christians, Kurds, Arabs — but we were all Iraqis and all willing to ignore boycott calls and intimidation attempts to have a say in our future and maybe one day live in the free, democratic, federal and united Iraq.”

Salah Nasrawi

Associated Press reporter and Iraqi expatriate after casting his vote in Cai-Ravi Amman, Jordan

One Iraqi expat tells his story of exile, elections and a new beginning

Full election coverage, Pages 3-4

Sizing up

USS San Francisco sits in dry dock on Guam as Navy assesses damage

The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS San Francisco sits in a dry dock in Santa Rita, Guam, last week for the assessment of damage sustained after running aground approximately 350 miles south of Guam. Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph Allen Ashley, 24, of Akron, Ohio, died of injuries suffered during the crash, and 23 other members of the crew were injured.

U.S. NAVY/AF

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Los Alamos investigation: A report concludes two computer disks that disappeared — prompting a virtual shutdown at one of the nation's leading nuclear weapons laboratories — never existed.

"We got wallowed," a spokesman for the University of California, which manages Los Alamos National Laboratory, said Friday.

In a harshly worded review that described severe security weaknesses at the nuclear weapons lab in Albuquerque, N.M., the Energy Department concluded bar codes were recorded for the disks, but the disks themselves were never created.

Archdiocese sex scandal trial: The wife of a man who was allegedly raped as a child by defrocked priest Paul Shanley said her spouse had night sweats and curled up on the floor after recovering memories of the alleged abuse.

Testifying Friday in Shanley's rape trial in Cambridge, Mass., the woman said her husband became distraught during a Feb. 11, 2002, phone conversation when she told him about a newspaper article in which a close friend of his described being abused by Shanley.

Chemical fire in Washington: A chemical fire that burned for nearly two days in Grandview, Wash., finally went out Friday and authorities allowed hundreds of evacuated residents to return home.

State and federal authorities continued to monitor air quality in the area, said Lt. Jim Keightley, spokesman for the State Patrol.

Hmong refugee resettlement: The resettlement of thousands of Hmong refugees from Thailand has been temporarily halted because tuberculosis has been diagnosed among some refugees in the United States and at the camp, the U.S. State Department announced Friday.

To date, four of the estimated 2,123 Hmong refugees who have resettled in Wisconsin since June have tested positive for active tuberculosis and are undergoing treatment, said Jeffrey Davis, chief medical officer for communicable diseases with the state Division of Public Health.

Minnesota has one confirmed TB case and four suspected cases. California has reported 20 confirmed tuberculosis cases among Hmong refugees.

Former Philippine leader's son: The son of former Philippine dictator Ferdinand

Marcos has been ordered to appear in federal court during a goodwill visit in Honolulu next month.

The order, issued Wednesday, allows Ferdinand "Bong Bong" Marcos Jr. to travel to Hawaii despite contempt-of-court charges pending against him and his mother, former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos. It bars him from speaking in public about pending litigation, however.

Pledge of Allegiance case: An official in a small tourist town sued his colleagues Friday, saying they're unfairly targeting him for recall over his refusal to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at board meetings.

Estes Park, Colo., town trustee David Haebecker, who describes himself as agnostic, says the words "under God" in the pledge violate his religious beliefs and are at odds with the separation of church and state, according to his lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Denver.

Ohio election challenge: Four lawyers behind a failed challenge of Ohio's presidential election results defended themselves Friday against the state attorney general's efforts to have them sanctioned for filing a "meritless claim."

In legal documents filed with the Ohio Supreme Court, the lawyers said the challenge they filed on behalf of 37 voters included enough evidence of voting irregularities to back up their allegations of widespread fraud.

The filing by Cliff Arnebeck, Robert Fitztrakis, Susan Truitt and Peter Peckarsky was in response to Attorney General Jim Petro's Jan. 19 request to sanction them.

Fla. right-to-die case: In the latest effort to keep a severely brain-damaged Florida woman alive, a lawyer for Terri Schiavo's parents argued Friday that she should have been represented by her own attorney throughout the legal proceedings.

The parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, have waged a long fight in several courts to prevent their daughter's husband, Michael, from removing the feeding tube that keeps her alive.

With the Schindlers' legal options dwindling, attorney David Gibbs asked a judge to let him proceed with a motion arguing that Terri Schiavo's due-process rights were violated by never having her own attorney.

Nevada state initiatives: Three state initiatives — including one that would make Nevada the first state to legalize possession of small amounts of marijuana — were re-

vived Friday when a judge ruled that the secretary of state was wrong to raise petition requirements while signatures were being gathered.

If the Legislature does not approve the initiatives, including two anti-smoking measures, they will end up on the 2006 election ballot.

Human smuggling trial: A Houston judge on Friday denied a request by the alleged ringleader behind the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt to withdraw her guilty plea in the case.

The decision came after a court hearing that included secret testimony by a confidential informant and open testimony by a deputy constable who admitted he lied to defense attorneys about possible bribery.

Karla Patricia Chavez pleaded guilty in June to one count of conspiring to harbor and transport illegal immigrants in a manner that led to their deaths.

World

Vatican and annulments: Pope John Paul II on Saturday reiterated his disapproval of granting marriage annulments too easily, telling members of a Vatican tribunal that there is a risk of falsity and corruption during the process.

The pontiff made the remarks in a speech at Vatican City to the Roman Rota, the Vatican tribunal that can grant marriage annulments. He has often complained in the past that the Church was granting annulments too often, and has frequently spoken out about the sanctity of marriage.

War on terrorism

Gitmo hearings: Secretive proceedings aimed at determining whether terror suspects at the U.S. prison camp in Guantanamo Bay pose a threat or hold valuable intelligence are continuing without media access, prompting fresh criticism of the camp after an insider described how female interrogators used sexual innuendo to break Muslim prisoners.

With two more hearings scheduled for Friday, the Administrative Review Boards started more than two months ago to decide whether detainees still pose a threat to the United States or have intelligence value.

The military has acknowledged holding 16 hearings but no other information is being provided and journalists have been banned.

Stories from wire services

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For Iraqi exile, a day of empowerment

EDITOR'S NOTE: Salah Nasrawi, who joined *The Associated Press* in Baghdad in 1985, fled Iraq in June 1991 after Saddam Hussein's regime revoked his press credentials because of his coverage of the Gulf War and the Shiite uprising that followed. He has returned to Iraq only once since then, in April 2004, a year after Baghdad fell to U.S. forces.

BY SALAH NASRAWI
The Associated Press

We didn't look much alike, those of us milling about the school courtyard and lining up to vote. Elderly men in traditional Arab gowns, young men in ski jackets and women in bright, flowing robes or beneath long, black abayas.

The hodgepodge of dress mirrored the mix of sects, religions and ethnicity — Shiites, Sunnis, Christians, Kurds, Arabs. But we were all Iraqis and all willing to ignore boycott calls and intimidation attempts to have a say in our future and maybe one day live in the free, democratic, federal and united Iraq touted in election posters.

We passed the Jordanian soldiers standing guards, walked through metal detectors and into the school to cast our ballots. The whole experience was exhilarating, and it was why I traveled from my home in exile in Cairo, Egypt, which was not among the countries where Iraqi expatriates could vote.

As I stood in line, I recalled scenes from South Africa in 1994,

when blacks, whites and South Africans of mixed race lined up to participate in the election marking apartheid's demise.

Some of the people around me also had fled Saddam Hussein's tyranny. Others left for economic reasons or escaped the insurgency that Saddam's die-hard loyalists and other terrorists are bent on pursuing. For all of us, the vote was remarkable: We had not only survived Saddam's brutality but also were now deciding our future, regardless of when or why we had left our homeland.

In line behind me stood Hamza Nasser, a 65-year-old man from Samawah, in southern Iraq. He'd been living and working in Jordan since 1997 after losing his property and life's savings in Kuwait — his home for years until the 1991 Gulf war. After Saddam's troops were driven out of Kuwait by an American-led coalition, Iraqis were no longer welcome. Unable to find work in Iraq or return to Kuwait, he settled in Amman.

"Twice in my life I have been overjoyed. Once when I saw Saddam toppled and now, when I stand here to cast my vote for a new Iraq," he told me.

Voting itself was confusing, but took only a few minutes.

In the school courtyard, people stared at huge posters containing the 21 names of the competing candidate lists. Many people clearly were confused with so many similar-sounding names — nearly all seemed to have "democratic" or "nationalist" in their names. Many struggled, asking around if anyone knew which list one candidate or another belonged to.

We all began referring to the



Iraqi expatriate Salah Nasrawi examines his ballot before voting Friday at an Iraqi polling station in Amman, Jordan.

lists by number, rather than name. Inside, I searched for the number of my list and marked my ballot.

I was only 4 when Iraq held its last independent elections. Four years later, in 1958, army officers toppled the monarchy and ruled the country by decree until Saddam's Baath Party took over in another coup in 1968.

The military leaders and Baathists despised democracy, considering elections a Western novelty. They always said Iraq was unfit for democracy. Iraqis not competent to judge what is best for the nation, and the tenets of democracy un-Iraqi. By implication, the Baath Party was claiming for Saddam the official and sole right to decide what was best and

what was indigenous to our culture.

Now, we are relying on ourselves to decide what is best.

Friday was the second time in my 55 years that I cast a ballot. The first was in a student union election at my British university in 1980.

Then, I was a candidate — and was elected to represent overseas students — an experience that taught me what it means to be able to freely express one's opinions.

Three years later, I returned to Iraq. At the time, Saddam decided to hold National Assembly elections — from which anyone who would not swear allegiance to him was barred. I did not vote then or in a similar 1987 election, knowing

the outcome would be a rubber-stamp parliament.

As a journalist, I covered sessions of the Assembly and saw how members would vote, without debate, by applauding and blindly chanting their support for bills.

I would not participate in a phony election and accepted the alternative — being blacklisted and placed under surveillance.

One resolution I covered was the council's endorsement of Saddam's 1990 occupation of Kuwait a week after the invasion had sparked an international crisis. I also covered the 1991 Gulf War that followed, and it was not long after that war when I had to leave Iraq.

My press credentials were revoked in June 1991, with the government making clear it was unhappy with my coverage of the war and of the Iraqi Shiite uprising that followed. Saddam's forces killed tens of thousands of Shiites who rose up against the regime that spring.

I fled with my wife and two children. I was lucky: A few days later, the regime began imprisoning and torturing journalists for the same offense I'd committed.

I have no illusions. Elections are only a first step in a long process that is bound to be imperfect. There will be public frustration over the results, accusations of irregularities and possibly smuggling. Later, corruption and broken election promises are almost certain.

Still, with Saddam gone, as I left that school courtyard, I could feel that Iraq has a real chance to transform itself from a brutal, pariah nation to multistage democracy. Now, I can hope that the agony of the past will end soon and I will be able to return to stay.

Two families, two views on voting

BY ALISSA J. RUBIN
Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD — The boom of tank rounds barely distracts Mals Hatthem as she translates a poem by Victor Hugo from French into Arabic. The 21-year-old is used to the fighting by now. Her neighborhood, where there is hardly a sign that Iraq is holding an election tomorrow, is a frequent launching ground for insurgents.

In another neighborhood, a young doctor who dreams of doing postgraduate studies in England keeps thinking about a close friend who was kidnapped two months ago and is probably dead. Riyadh Rubaie, 26, is worried that someone he knows will get hurt when people go to the polls.

The two people in their 20s are a far cry from the image of the angry Iraqi distrustful of the West. But both are disillusioned with their country's current leaders; both harbor doubts about the capacity of any new government to improve their situation; both are bleak about the future of the country. And only one — Rubaie, a Shiite Muslim — plans to vote Sunday.

Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Iraqis are in the same position as Hatthem and Rubaie. They are making quiet, private choices about whether to participate in an election that is being described as the most important in their lifetimes, but that for some could be a life-or-death decision.

Their decisions appear to hang on both

“First there was a Governing Council, and then there was this government, and what happened? Nothing changed; in fact, things got worse.”

Mals Hatthem

Iraqi student, who does not plan to vote

“The election is only a part of a series of steps. ...we need to reach this step, to turn this page and maybe then things will get better.”

Riyadh Rubaie

Iraqi doctor, who says he will vote

their individual circumstances — the level of intimidation in their neighborhoods, for instance — and, more important, if they have any larger sense of hope.

That hope is rooted in part in whether their families are Sunni or Shiite. For Shiites, the road ahead seems fraught, but filled with a promise of empowerment unheard of over the past 30 years. For Sunnis, even those like Hatthem who had no connection to the Saddam Hussein regime, Iraq is a place where their supremacy, and their sense of possibilities, is waning.

No hope, no vote

For the past week, Hatthem's street has been awash in a fetid slush of stagnant rainwater and sewer water. A walk to the poll-

ing center would entail a disgusting slog, and remind her of the days of low life she has gained from the ouster of Saddam.

"Those in the government don't know anything about our suffering," she said softly.

Her family makes do with six hours of electricity a day, and has lived through Baghdad in the past year forced the French aid organization where she had hoped to work after her university studies to close its doors. For Hatthem it was the end of her dream of learning in a language she has come to love.

Hatthem has lived much of her life in the shadow of war. She was born during Iraq's brutal war with Iran, was 6 during the Persian Gulf War, and has lived through Iraq's war with the United States.

SEE VOTING, PAGE 4



A poster encouraging Iraqis to vote decorates the wall of a polling station, as Iraqi security members guard from the roof in the Al Saiid district of Basra, southern Iraq.

2 killed in attack on U.S. Embassy in Iraq

BY BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents hit the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad with a rocket, killing at least two Americans, set off explosions that killed eight Iraqis and a U.S. soldier and blasted polling places across the country Saturday as Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's government urged Iraqis to overcome their fear of violence and vote in landmark elections.

The strike in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone was a dramatic sign of guerrillas' ability to hit at the heart of power in Iraq even as the U.S. and Iraqi militaries took some of their strictest security measures ever for the election, imposing a strict lockdown in the capital and large parts of the country.

The rocket hit the embassy's compound after nightfall, near the building itself, an embassy of-

ficial said. A civilian and a Navy sailor, both assigned to the embassy, died and four Americans were injured.

During the day, bursts of heavy machine gun fire rattled through central Baghdad at midday, and several heavy explosions shook the downtown area in the afternoon. A U.S. soldier was killed by a roadside bomb in a western district of the capital, the military said.

Iraqi police and soldiers set up

checkpoints through streets largely devoid of traffic, with a nighttime curfew imposed across the country and the borders sealed. Seven American soldiers were killed Friday in the Baghdad area, including two pilots who died in the crash of their OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter.

West of the capital, in the insurgent bastion of Ramadi, five Iraqis with hands tied behind their backs were found slain Saturday

on a city street. One of the bodies was decapitated. Militants accused them of working for the Americans.

Sunni Muslim extremists have warned Iraqis not to participate in the election Sunday, threatening to "wash the streets" in blood.

Iraqis will choose a 275-member National Assembly and provincial councils in Iraq's 18 provinces. Voters in the Kurdish self-ruled area of the north will select a new regional parliament.

Forces join to protect the vote in 'triangle of death'

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER

The Associated Press

MUSAYYIB, Iraq — Marines took up positions on a polling station roof and hulking U.S. Abrams tanks sealed off bridges and roads Saturday, imposing a lockdown on a southern Baghdad notorious for guerrilla attacks as poll workers stacked up ballot boxes for Iraq's landmark elections.

Mortar rounds landed at least one polling site in the region south of Baghdad overnight and Marines and Iraqi security forces came under small-arms fire as they

worked early Saturday to finish placing bomb barriers around polling sites.

But Iraqi election officials, Iraqi police and Marines maintained that the basics of Iraq's first post-Saddam Hussein elections were falling into place in the mixed Sunni-Shiite region south of the capital that has earned the nickname "triangle of death" owing to the frequency of insurgent bombing.

"I feel happy because of tomorrow — it's a good situation because we can vote for whoever we choose. Before, the choice was Saddam Hussein, or Saddam Hussein," said Yahir Jassim, civilian election

director for 15 polling sites in the city of Iskandariyah and surrounding towns.

The U.S. military is playing a major security and logistics back-up role in the vote but is trying to avoid as much as possible any contact with ballots or voters in what the Americans say will be an Iraq-run election.

On Saturday, U.S. Marines manned the rooftops of Jassim's polling site and others. Iraqi police stood guard around the polls, while Iraq's National Guard worked checkpoints and readied SWAT teams.

Some election workers were coming under threats, including from hard-liners

in a group centered on an area mosque, said poll worker Enad Jura al-Khatib in the town of Mussayib about 50 miles southwest of Baghdad.

"They threaten people, and they say 'don't go to vote,'" he told Marines, who replied that they and Iraqi forces would deal with it.

Iraqi police there asked for air support from the U.S. military for the vote. They would get it, Marines told them.

The election has called out what may be the largest shared operation yet by Iraqi and U.S. security forces, said Maj. Matthew Sasse of the 1st Battalion Second Marines, out checking preparations Saturday.

Voting: Violence, uncertainty hinder decision of some

FROM VOTING, PAGE 3

When the Americans first arrived, she remembers a sense of doors opening. She and her family disliked Saddam, and his fall came as a relief. They hoped that "First, when we would see every winter, finally would be fixed."

Now, living in a neighborhood where gunfire is common at breakfast, she has lost faith in the Americans and the Iraqis who have worked with them.

"In the beginning, we had hope," she said, sitting in a dim reception room darkened by a gray day and a lack of electricity. The only warmth came from a gas heater. "We thought we had gotten rid of a bad situation, but then the summer came and there was no security, the winter came and there was no security, and the summer came again and it was the same."

The current government has failed to make improvements, so it is hard for her to imagine that a new set of faces will make a difference. "First there was a Governing Council, and then there was this government, and what happened?" she said. "Nothing changed; in fact, things got worse."

Her mother, Menil, nodded. "At least under Saddam it was safer — not because the government was Sunni, but just because there was more security," she said.

No one in her family plans to vote.

The only remedy is for the Americans to leave, Haithem said. The troubles, at least for Haithem and her family, have worsened since the Americans ar-

rived, perhaps their departure would at least stop the insurgents from shooting in her neighborhood.

"After [the Americans] go and the Iraqis start building Iraq by themselves, maybe then hope will be created inside me again," she said. "But now the future is dark."

A step toward freedom

Although their prospects might be different, the conversations of Riyadh Rubaie's family have echoed those of their Sunni counterparts.

Rubaie and his brother, Radh-

wan, have been talking about the election for weeks with their mother and father, but they're still divided over whether it's worth risking their lives to vote.

Radhwan, also a doctor, is far more skeptical than his older brother about whether the elections will change anything.

"The problem is that these lists of candidates don't represent the real Iraq. Many people on these lists lived outside and we don't know who they are," said Radhwan, who hopes to go to the United States to become an ear, nose and throat specialist.

Riyadh listened quietly, but dis-

agreed with his brother. Riyadh needed to take the long view, he said.

"I agree that it is a real problem that we don't know the people who are running security," he said. "But the election is only a part of a series of steps. Then they will write a constitution and then hold another election, and we need to reach this step, to turn this page and maybe then things will get better — not right away, but maybe after two years or so."

Although the family is mostly Shiite they think of themselves as Iraqis first, and Riyadh is leaning toward voting for Adnan Pacha-

chi, a secular Sunni who he thinks will run an honest government.

But he too has fears. There is his engineer friend who disappeared and probably is dead. Several of his medical school professors were being assassinated or kidnapped.

Although he plans to leave the country for study, he says he is enthusiastic about returning to pass on to his countrymen whatever knowledge he gains.

He seemed excited by the prospect of voting.

"Saddam Hussein tried to isolate our minds and to make us vote in arbitrary ways," he said. "Now we can vote for anyone."



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6 aboard Kitty Hawk injured in F/A 18 landing accident

Stars and Stripes

Six crewmembers of the Strike Fighter Squadron 102 from Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, were injured when an F/A 18-F Super Hornet was involved in an accident Saturday evening on the flight deck of the USS Kitty Hawk, according to a press release from the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

The Kitty Hawk was approximately 100 miles southeast of its

home port of Yokosuka, Japan, when the accident occurred, the release stated. Lt. Cmdr. Marc Boyd, a Seventh Fleet spokesman, said the 6:30 p.m. accident occurred as the F/A 18 was landing.

The F/A 18's two pilots were "safely recovered" after the accident and are reported to be in good condition, Boyd said. The six crewmembers sustained injuries not believed to be life-threatening.

Three of the injured were to be taken by helicopter to U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka for further medical treatment, he added.

Details on the extent of the injuries and names of the crewmembers involved were being withheld pending notification of next of kin, he said.

Seventh Fleet declined to release further details Saturday about the accident, citing an ongoing investigation.

Self-defense training



BO J. FLANNIGAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 3rd Classes Michael Jackson of Daetroit and Efraim Torres from Anaheim, Calif., conduct self-defense training Thursday in the USS Kitty Hawk's hangar bay. In addition to maintaining order and discipline, security personnel supervise force protection efforts, maintain a brig and patrol the ship.

Yokota makes way for Chili's

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan—Site work has begun on a new Chili's restaurant here.

The well-known bar-and-grill chain isn't expected to open for another 18 months, base officials said. It will be built on the spot currently occupied by Building 522, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service mini-mall that sits next to Tomodachi Lanes and the Family Support Center.

A fence is being wrapped around that structure now in preparation for its demolition, said 2nd Lt. Charles Comfort, chief of the 374th Civil Engineering Squadron's construction management section. The adjacent parking lot, along with some nearby trees and bushes, also will be taken out to make room for the restaurant.

"Current projection is that construction will be complete on the Chili's restaurant within 12-18 months," Comfort said, adding that the removal of Building 522 and its parking lot should be complete by May 14. "It should be up and running within 12 months of the demolition."

"Chili's restaurants have been very popular on military installations, providing an alternate possibility to dining at the food court at the BX or the dining hall. This Chili's will have a central location, and we expect it will be a very popular morale booster for the military and civilian personnel at Yokota."

Clearing away chunks of the old building and preparing for a fresh construction site will cost more than \$258,000, Comfort said. That effort is being funded by the civil engineer squadron, which awarded the contract to the Nippo Corporation, a local contractor.

Building 522 formerly housed several small businesses, which have been relocated around the base, he said.

The 374th Services Division is bringing Chili's to Yokota, which will be the second military installation in the Pacific to open a franchise. The chain closed its Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, in 2003.

E-mail Vince Little at: littlev@stripsides.osd.mil

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Strikes target militants

MANILA, Philippines — Five Islamic militants, including at least one suspected Indonesian member of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah, were believed killed in a military air strike on their hideout in a southern marshland, officials said Friday.

Maj. Gen. Raul Delano, commander of the 6th Infantry Division, said a military intelligence report showed the unidentified Indonesian was killed along with four local militants after the bombing runs on Thursday on their hideout in Maguindanao province's Butuan Marsh, 560 miles southeast of Manila.

"The intelligence report said five were dead and three were wounded," Delano told The Associated Press. "The hazy report from our (intelligence) assets in the area said that one foreigner was among those dead."

Peace summit scheduled

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian

leader Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will hold their first summit early next month, a senior Palestinian official said Saturday.

The summit would cap a series of recent steps by Israel and the Palestinians to end more than four years of fighting and resume peace talks. It would be the first gathering of Israeli and Palestinian leaders since Sharon and Abbas signed the so-called "road map" peace plan in June 2003. Abbas was the Palestinian prime minister at the time.

Leader: Iran not afraid

TEHRAN, Iran — The Iranian nation is not scared of threats by the United States and will remain united, the country's supreme leader said Saturday.

"American officials foolishly think that the Iranian people would surrender under threat. But no threat would scare them. Iranian people and officials will resist cries of the enemy bravely and with wisdom. Any-

time these two enjoy a common will, the United States can't do anything," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in comments broadcast by state-run Tehran radio.

Teen dies of bird flu

HANOI, Vietnam — A 13-year-old girl became the 11th person to die from bird flu in Vietnam in a month, while a Cambodian woman with symptoms of the disease was admitted to a Vietnamese hospital in critical condition, officials said Saturday.

The girl from southern Dong Thap province died Friday night in Ho Chi Minh City, a hospital doctor said. Her 35-year-old mother died from bird flu on Jan. 21 after the two of them slaughtered a duck, said Nguyen Ngoc An, director of the province's Preventive Medicine Center.

The World Health Organization said human-to-human transmission is being investigated and that such cases must be closely followed "to determine whether the epidemiological behavior of the virus

might be changing in ways that could favor the onset of a pandemic."

Most human cases so far have been linked to sick poultry. WHO has said that isolated cases of the virus being spread among humans in close contact have been reported and similar cases would not cause reason for alarm.

U.S. wants trade growth

DAVOS, Switzerland — President Bush's second administration is committed to relaunching stalled world trade talks and the possibility of lifting some 300 million people out of poverty, a senior U.S. official said Saturday.

Outgoing U.S. trade representative Robert Zoellick told business and government leaders at the World Economic Forum that freer trade resulting from a new agreement could improve conditions in parts of the world and help eradicate breeding grounds for terrorism.

From The Associated Press



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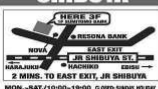
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Tsunami warnings

PHUKET, Thailand — Tsunami-ravaged nations at a conference in Thailand failed to resolve differences over which one should host a disaster warning center Saturday, and instead decided to set up smaller facilities in several countries to prevent future catastrophes.

The two-day meeting at the ravaged resort island of Phuket focused on the creation of a tsunami warning system for the Indian Ocean, which experts say would have saved many of the 145,000 to 178,000 lives lost across 11 countries on Dec. 26.

China's jets in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Jetliners from China landed in rival Taiwan for the first time in 56 years Saturday, raising hopes that the flights will cool tensions in one of the world's most dangerous potential flashpoints.

China's pilot smiled and waved after landing his China Southern Airlines plane in the capital, Taipei. Taiwan had banned Chinese airlines from flying to the island since the Communists won a civil war and took over the mainland in 1949.

The flight, which originated in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, carried 277 Taiwanese businesspeople and their families returning for the Lunar New Year — the biggest holiday on the Chinese calendar.

Mourning ex-leader

BEIJING — China cremated Zhao Ziyang on Saturday after a heavily guarded farewell ceremony and issued its first official obituary on the deceased Communist Party leader, accusing him of making "serious mistakes" during the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests.

Thousands of mourners, many of them weeping, filed through a memorial hall at Beijing's Babaoshan Cemetery, the main burial site for revolutionary heroes. They stood in rows and bowed before Zhao's body, which lay on a bier without a coffin and was surrounded by evergreen leaves. He wore a blue, high-collared Chinese jacket and was covered in the Communist Party flag.

From The Associated Press

Reducing tensions between Koreans

South Korea says it will stop calling North Korea its 'main enemy'

BY BO-MI LIM

The Associated Press

SEOUL — South Korea's Defense Ministry said Friday it will stop calling North Korea its "main enemy" in defense guidelines, a symbolic change apparently aimed at reducing tension between the decades-old archrivals.

The decision is subject to approval by the full Cabinet next week. The revised Defense White Paper to be released next Friday will refer to North Korea as posing a "direct military threat," ministry officials said.

The symbolic change will not influence South Korea's defense readiness against the North, the

ministry said. "The fact remains that North Korea is our main enemy," a ministry spokesman said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

South Korea began calling North Korea a "main enemy" 10 years ago, after North Korea threatened to turn Seoul into a "sea of fire" in a dispute over the North's nuclear weapons program.

North Korea has remained a mortal enemy of South Korea since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, leaving the Korean Peninsula technically at war. Their border is the world's most heavily armed.

North Korea has cited the "main enemy" terminology as a key example of what it calls South Korean hostility and has refused to start a military dialogue on easing tensions.

Critics, however, have condemned South Korea's changing attitude as coddling the Pyongyang regime, which is suspected of building nuclear weapons in defiance of international pressure while suppressing human rights of its hunger-stricken people.

South Korea has not released its annual defense white paper for four years, partly because of the controversy over whether to

continue calling North Korea a "main enemy."

The main opposition Grand National Party have accused President Roh Moo-hyun and his predecessor, Kim Dae-jung, of pampering North Korea.

The opposition and Roh's ruling Uri Party also dispute whether to abolish the National Security Law, by which people convicted of sympathizing with communism can get a lengthy prison term.

Uri says the law is outdated and should be repealed. The opposition says the 57-year-old law should only be amended.

The Koreans have moved toward better ties since holding a historic summit in 2000.

Sweden's oldest twins say turnip is one key to long life

BY MATTIAS KAREN

The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — They have lived for 200 years between them, but Sweden's oldest pair of twins had never seen anything like this before.

Holding up a birthday cake and two bouquets of flowers, Siri Ingvarsson and Gunhild Gaellstedt seemed bewildered by the number of photographers huddled around them in the living room of Gaellstedt's Stockholm apartment earlier this week.

"Why do they need five photographers?" Gaellstedt asked. "Do they think we'll stick on the film?" The media attention seemed hard to understand for the sisters — after all, Ingvarsson said, she has never been seriously injured or ill. "That big of a deal."

"Not much different from turning 99," she said. Still, Ingvarsson and Gaellstedt — who both walk without any assistance and do all their daily

chores themselves — did their best to answer some of the questions they've almost grown tired of by now. No, they repeated time and again, they do not really have a secret formula for long life.

"We like to joke and say it's because we lived only on turnip back in 1914," Gaellstedt said. "That's all we had to eat during the world war. The first one, that is."

They have a more normal diet now, they said, but that hasn't stopped them from keeping their health. Aside from when they gave birth — they each had one child — Gaellstedt is the only one who has ever been hospitalized. She broke her thigh bone two years ago, but recovered quickly, she said.

Ingvarsson, who is 30 minutes older than her sister, said she has never been seriously injured or ill. "I have a toe that aches, though," she said.

But in a country where senior citizens have access to free home-help service, the sisters do their shopping, cleaning, cooking and laundry themselves.



Twins Gunhild Gaellstedt, left, and Siri Ingvarsson cut their 100th anniversary birthday cake in Stockholm, Sweden.



Cuban students march in the streets Old Havana on Friday as the country celebrates the 152nd birthday of national hero Jose Marti. U.S. students are now studying in Cuba, under tighter U.S. regulations.

American students getting taste of Cuba

The Associated Press

HAVANA — When Veronica Sanchez's parents found out she was going to Cuba for 10 weeks, they "freaked out" and worried she would become a communist, the 19-year-old Mexican-American student said.

"My dad really has it in his head that I'm never going to go back home," she said. "He thinks I'm going to love it here."

Worried parents, steep prices and a stricter U.S. travel ban were among the obstacles Sanchez and nine other University of California, Davis, students had to overcome to become one of the first groups of Americans to travel to Cuba under new, restrictive U.S. regulations.

The rules, implemented last summer by President Bush, require all study trips to last at least 10 weeks — purportedly to cut down on tourism under academic pretenses and to make sure students experience more than just white-sand beaches and salsa concerts.

But critics say the purpose of

the changes is to make it harder for Americans to get to Cuba, and that the vast majority of academic groups that traveled there focused on seeing Fidel Castro's socialist system firsthand — not on visiting the island's beaches. The U.C. Davis students, who arrived Jan. 2, each had to pay \$10,000. The students said the longer time-period allows them to see past the Cuban government propaganda and get a true sense of life on the island.

Cuban-Americans in Florida were a vital electoral bloc courted by Bush in last year's presidential campaign.

The students will study topics including race and gender issues, the Cuban political structure, housing, music, baseball and community health. Original recommendations in a report issued last year by the U.S. Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba complained that most trips by American students are heavily controlled by Cuban state security officials and allow only limited interaction with average Cubans.

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Crews work to de-ice jets at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport in Charlotte, N.C., on Saturday. A mixture of snow and sleet blanketed the area causing delays for travelers.

AP



Freezing rain and sleet slows Southeast travel

BY ELIOTT C. MC LAUGHLIN
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Freezing rain and sleet spread sheets of ice across parts of the Southeast on Saturday, shutting down sections of every interstate highway in the metro Atlanta area and canceling hundreds of airline flights.

Two traffic deaths appeared to be linked to the slippery pavement, said Trooper First Class Larry Schnall of the Georgia State Patrol.

Ice was a quarter-inch thick on downtown Atlanta streets as a storm system spread snow, freezing rain and sleet from the Midwest into Georgia and the Carolinas.

South Carolina police warned of ice forming on bridges and North Carolina's Highway Patrol reported numerous accidents.

Throughout the Atlanta metropolitan area, wrecks led police to shut down sections of Interstates 85, 20, 75 and 285 and some other highways during the morning, said state Department of Transportation spokeswoman Karlene Barron.

Most had been reopened by midday, officials said.

At Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, only one

runway was open at midday and "very few flights are coming or going," said airport spokeswoman Felicia Browder.

"I don't have an official number of cancellations, but I can say with confidence a significant number have been canceled," Browder said.

AirTran alone canceled 90 flights for the day, said spokesman Tad Hutcheson.

Delta could not provide a number of canceled flights until the end of the day, but had cut its scheduled systemwide by about 40 percent in anticipation of the storm, said spokesman Anthony Black.

Browder said most travelers were aware of the approaching inclement weather, so few people are stranded at the airport.

Not everyone was so lucky. The Atlanta Hawks basketball team spent the night at the airport aboard their chartered airplane waiting to be de-iced and then for permission to take off, and finally gave up Saturday morning and went to a hotel to await word on their scheduled night game in Memphis against the Grizzlies.

In South Carolina, Delta, Northwest Airlines, U.S. Airways, and others canceled flights from Greenville-Spartanburg Interna-

tional Airport and from Columbia Metropolitan Airport.

All of northern Georgia was under a winter storm warning and as much as a half-inch of ice was possible from Athens to Gainesville, the National Weather Service said.

The ice also accumulated on power lines and tree limbs, and more than 52,000 homes and businesses were blacked out around Georgia, according to Georgia Power and the Georgia Electric Membership Corp.

Why little Johnny is not able to drink

BY THERESA VARGAS
Newsday (LATWP)

MELVILLE, N.Y. — On a day East Hampton students buried themselves in exams, talk of another test circulated in the halls — one with sobering effects.

The high school is poised to pass a breath analyzer policy that would test students suspected of coming to class drunk. Only a handful of districts in the state have such a policy.

"It takes the guesswork out of what we do," Principal Scott Farina said. "If the technology is such that people are able to use this at home and police officers in the field, then why can't school districts also? 'I wasn't trying to come up with a radical idea,' he said. 'I was just trying to address a need.'"

Acknowledging the relationship between booze and banquets, several Long Island districts for years have used a breath analyzer at events such as prom and homecoming.

Long Island's Sayville High School, which allows breath analyzer tests of students during the school day, passed its policy in 1998 after 18 students showed up

drunk at a school party and five were hospitalized because they were intoxicated. But the devices have not been used in at least five years, said John Belmonte, assistant superintendent for business.

East Hampton school board president Wendy Hall said the issue is not unique to that school.

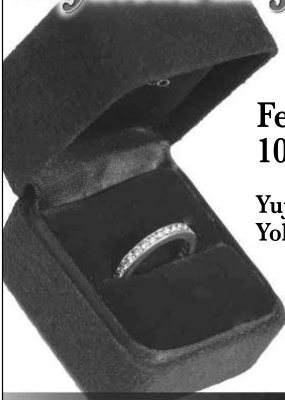
"I heard of kids being intoxicated before they get there, early in the morning," Hall said. "I think we all know alcohol is a problem in our schools and we want to address it."

Pictures showing students drinking at a beach party this summer were taken from a Web site with personal photos and circulated earlier this year by parents to illustrate the problem.

The East Hampton school board, which preliminarily approved the policy at its last meeting, could take a final vote Tuesday night. If it passes, trained officials would test suspected students on campus or at school-sponsored events.

A refusal to take the test, according to the policy, would result in the same punishment as if the student were inebriated. The punishment has not yet been chosen.

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'I ♥ my kids'

Near death, survivor of train wreck writes message to family in blood

BY CARLA HALL
AND SOLOMON MOORE

The Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — He thought he was going to die.

He was having trouble breathing. As he lay wedged under a train seat and metal debris, he scrawled with whatever energy he could summon and a heart-breaking economy of words a farewell in blood on the seat. "I (heart) my kids I (heart) Leslie," he printed. The blood ink seemed to be running out as he got to the second sentence.

Captain Robert Rosario, the firefighter who discovered that message, later choked up as he related the story for TV cameras. All of the images, sad or brave, pulled from the mangled wreckage of Wednesday's Metrolink train disaster, few captivated people more than this finger-painted testament of love. And none was more mysterious.

Who was the message writer? What happened to him? Who is Leslie? Everyone wants to know. Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey said the department has been inundated

ed with inquiries — "about 700 calls," he said Thursday — from people who simply wanted to know who he was and how he was doing.

The mystery messenger was admitted to County USC Hospital, which received more than 100 phone calls from the public asking about him.

"They mainly wanted to tell him that their prayers are with him," said County-USC spokeswoman Adelaida De La Cerdia. He was discharged late Thursday and declined requests to talk with the media, she said.

This much is known: Leslie is his wife. And his name is John. And he may not want the rest of the world to know even that much about him — no matter how much they crave that and more.

"I'm a private person," he said in a statement the hospital released for him, "and the message that I wrote was a private message to my wife and my kids because I didn't think I was going to make it."

Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman Captain Carlos Calvillo said he understood why even strangers were moved. "The fact



A Metrolink commuter train that was involved in Wednesday's deadly train derailment is loaded onto a truck for removal in Glendale, Calif. The tracks were expected to be reopened Monday, Metrolink officials said. Commuters, meanwhile, were taking buses.

that this guy in this situation had the amount of love he had for his family, and for him to realize I'm possibly going to die here" — how could any words explain it?" said Calvillo, who watched as one of the rescuers speaking before the cameras choked on his account of John's rescue.

"That moved firefighters as big and tough as we are," Calvillo said. "We're big teddy bears. It tremendously affected the guys in the 27th."

The firefighters from a search and rescue unit at Los Angeles Fire Station 27 crawled through a rip in the wall of the second passenger car of the northbound

train, which was tilted at an angle.

They pulled two bodies out. But someone had told them there was a survivor who needed help. They found John trapped in the rubble of metal debris and seat material.

Clad in a pullover sweater and slacks, John looked to be about 6'4", maybe 250 pounds, maybe in his 40s, Captain Robert Rosario recalled. John was in shock.

"I can see why he thought he wasn't going to make it," Rosario said. "He said his ribs were hurting and he was bleeding from below the waist."

Times Staff Writer Charles Ornstein contributed to this report.

Ridge: Boston alert was bad communication

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An unsubstantiated tip that terrorists planned to attack Boston earlier this month should not have been made public, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Friday.

The warning — which turned out to be bogus — led to a public alert and increased security in Boston. It reflected a breakdown in the still-developing U.S. intelligence-sharing system that was put in place after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"This was information shared with our partners, and some of them viewed it as a need to take action on it," Ridge said. "And no one on the Department of Homeland Security, based on these initial reports, thought we should do anything with it but share it." He asked: "Could we have handled the information a little bit differently on our part? Maybe. Could they have handled the information when we shared it with them and told them everything around it? Absolutely."

The incident, Ridge said, highlighted the need for the Homeland Security Department to be the primary federal contact for state and local authorities as they grapple with threats or other security needs. Ridge said he was not included in the conversation during which FBI agents briefed local authorities about the tip.

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Members of the all-female Krewé of Artemis toss beads to the crowd at the Mardi Gras parade Friday night in downtown Baton Rouge, La. In New Orleans, rain-soaked revelers fill the streets on the first night of the celebration that continues through Feb. 8.

Wet, but not-as-wild, Mardi Gras kicks off

BY KEVIN MCGILL
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — This city's Mardi Gras season has always had the air of barely controlled chaos, but this year's bash just might be a bit milder thanks to forces that are completely out of control: the calendar and the weather.

Rain pelted parades that rolled on Friday night, when the season kicked into high gear with six big parades — the first of more than 50 that will roll over the next 12 days in the metropolitan area.

"It's pretty much going to be a washout," Phil Grigsby, of the National Weather Service in New Orleans, lamented Thursday.

Grigsby said drier, more pleasant conditions were expected Saturday and into next week, when more than a dozen other parades will roll. He said it was too early to predict how wet, dry, warm or cold it will be when the celebra-

tion reaches its climax on Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday.

But, even if the weather cooperates, the calendar won't. Mardi Gras, which can fall anywhere from Feb. 3 to March 9, is Feb. 8 this year. Such an early date can mean fewer visitors for the area's more than 37,000 hotel rooms, said Beverly Gianna of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Early crowds are not only smaller, they tend to be a bit older and tamer, said Shelly Waguespack, vice president for administration at Pat O'Brien's, a venerable French Quarter bar just off Bourbon Street.

"An earlier Mardi Gras will bring in an older market, people who are not necessarily spring-breaking it, but people who are just coming through on vacation and want to see Mardi Gras," Waguespack said. "A later Mardi Gras brings in spring breakers and college kids, so it's much crazier when it's later."

BY CAROL MORELLO
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Virginia Military Institute has asked a student governing body to investigate and recommend discipline against cadets who attended a Halloween party wearing costumes that parodied Nazis, Africans and homosexuals.

In a statement posted Friday on VMI's Web site, school officials said they were "disappointed" in the behavior and judgment of the cadets.

"Civility and respect for others is something VMI is trying to inculcate in the cadets," said Stewart MacInnis, a spokesman for

the state-supported school, which has about 1,300 students enrolled this year. "When I look at the pictures, I don't see anything mean-spirited. What I see are college kids who are trying to use humor, and they missed. They really missed. It wasn't the right thing to do."

In one photo posted on a public Web site, three young men wearing black shirts pose as Nazis with their right arms extended in a stiff-armed salute.

Another picture shows a man painted black from head to toe, his white skin visible at the edges of a loincloth.

Two photos mock homosexuals. In one, two men are dressed as

fairies, complete with tiaras, wands, wings, pink briefs and T-shirts with the words "I (love) a man in uniform." In another, a youth dressed in a sailor's uniform is bent over to display a target taped to his buttocks, while a shirtless cadet slides up behind him.

Hoping to turn the incident into a lesson for the student body, the school has asked the General Committee to investigate and recommend action. The committee is composed of three cadet officers, one each from the sophomore, junior and senior classes.

It unclear whether the students broke any rules. Cadets can be disciplined for "conduct unbecoming" that brings disrespect to the institution.

Vt. official defends teen voyeurism

The Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. — The Vermont defender general says he is concerned that the Vermont Senate is crafting a so-called "Peeping Tom" law that will criminalize the normal curiosity of many teenage boys.

Defender General Matthew Valerio said boys spend much of their time thinking about naked women. For generations they have placed mirrors on their shoes to look up dresses and figured out ways to peer into high school locker rooms, summer camp showers and motel windows. The behavior, he said, should be discouraged, but not be made criminal.

"Having middle-aged men or women doing these exact same things is wrong and should be criminal," Valerio said. "But kids are not deviants. They are

acting out normal biology. We should discourage it. But they are criminalizing it under this bill."

The Senate Judiciary Committee is crafting legislation that would outlaw voyeurism and make it a crime to hide or loiter to view someone who is naked or partially clothed for more than a brief time period.

Laws that protect privacy should not be age-specific, said Sen. John Campbell, D-Windsor, a Judiciary Committee member. People have the right to be protected, including from teenagers, he said.

"The public has the right to feel safe in areas like their bedroom, the bathroom and shower," Campbell said. "If a young woman is in (a school locker room or camp shower), should she have a reasonable expectation of privacy and not be viewed surreptitiously? I think the answer is yes."

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FACES

Kidman gets her wish

Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman will have some temporary restraints on her orders against two freelance photographers.

Magistrate Lee Gilmore of the Waverly Local Court in Sydney, Australia, ordered photographers Jamie Fawcett, 43, and Ben McDonald, 32, not to approach Kidman at her home or go within 66 feet of her house.

The restraining orders will remain in place until at least Feb. 11, when the case returns to court.

Neither Kidman nor the photographers

attended Thursday's hearing.

Photographers have been staking out Kidman's home since she arrived Sunday to begin filming her new movie. Kidman's security guards allegedly discovered a listening device earlier this week outside her residence.

Kidman's chief bodyguard, Neil McMaster, said Monday that surveillance footage taken from the house showed that the bug had been intentionally planted by someone seeking to intercept conversations among Kidman and her bodyguards.

A very Brady divorce

The wife of former "The Brady Bunch" kid Barry Williams has filed for divorce, according to court papers.

Barry, 50, who played Greg Brady on the '70s sitcom, married Ella Mary Matt Williams in 1999. The couple formally separated

earlier this month and have a 2-year-old son, according to the divorce petition filed Tuesday in Superior Court in Los Angeles.

Williams requested sole custody of their son and asked that her husband have visits only with a nanny present, according to the petition.

Barry Williams works in musical theater, makes public speaking tours and wrote a memoir titled, "Growing Up Brady: I Was a Teenage Greg."

Williams was married to Diane Martin from 1990-1992.

Kid Rock parts ways

Kid Rock says he's parting ways with his publishing company, Warner Chappell's BMI-affiliated publishing company, Warner Tamerlane.

"We've had a great run, and we'll miss many of the individuals at Warner's pub-

lishing company," Rock said Wednesday in a statement. "We wish them all the best."

Rock said his 2004 tour received little or no support from the company and he felt that it was time to move his new projects forward with partners more interested in "music than IPOs."

"Labels like Atlantic and Warner Chappell aren't the great music labels they used to be. They're just businesses now," Kid Rock told The Associated Press.

Kid Rock said he's still under contract with Warner for three more albums — "pending their attitude."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Kidman



Kid Rock

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HONG KONG \$281~ 2/23-2/28

SEOUL \$219~ 2/13-18, 2/26-28, 2/27-28

MANILA \$373~ 2/4-2/8 SUN-FRI

BANGKOK \$266~ 2/11-2/28

MILITARY SPECIAL!

GUAM \$333~ 2/4-3/1

HONOLULU \$692~ 2/4-3/1

USA TO JAPAN

LAS VEGAS/SAN FRANCISCO \$449~ 2/13-2/28 MON-THU

NEW YORK, BUFFALO \$599~ 2/13-2/28 MON-THU

JAPAN DOMESTIC PACKAGE

BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

- BULLET TRAIN & HOTEL -

ONSEN \$96~

KYOTO 2DAYS \$185~

HIROSHIMA 2DAYS \$240~

KYOTO&HIROSHIMA 3DAYS \$358~

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BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

MEETING SHIP SPECIAL

HONG KONG 4DAYS*

For passenger from Narita

2/24-2/25 \$53,900~ 2/25 \$48,500~

For local joint guest

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**No holding fee included
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- FLYING TO MANILA SPECIAL -

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GOOD FOR 14 DAYS \$618~ 2/1-2/28

GOOD FOR 2 MONTH \$588~ 2/1-2/9

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(HAS TO BE PURCHASED BY 35 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE)

SEOUL \$168~ ASK DATE **HONG KONG \$338~** ASK DATE

USA(10CTY) \$688~ 2/1-2/28

NEW YORK \$518~ 2/1-2/28

LOS ANGELES \$468~ 2/1-2/23

HONOLULU \$468~ ASK DATE

Package Tour

GUAM FREE \$608~ ASK DATE **HONOLULU FREE \$618~** ASK DATE

PLAN 6DAYS *HOLDING CHARGE WILL BE APPLIED IF APPLICABLE

*FOR DOMESTIC RESERVATION MUST BE DONE BY 7 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. *PRICES DEPEND ON HOTELS AND FLIGHTS. PLEASE ASK DETAILS LAST WEEK!

FROM HIROSHIMA

SEOUL \$178~ 2/1-2/4

MANILA \$568~ 2/5-2/28 (SAT)

BANGKOK \$618~ 2/1-2/28

LOS ANGELES \$528~ 1/28-2/3

BEIJING \$478~ 2/1-2/28 (MON-FRI)

Package Tour

OKINAWA 2DAYS \$308~

(W ECONOMY HOTEL) 2/14-2/17 (MON-THU)

*FOR DOMESTIC RESERVATION MUST BE DONE BY 7 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

*PRICES DEPEND ON HOTELS AND FLIGHTS.

PLEASE ASK DETAILS LAST WEEK!

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MON-FRI 10:00-18:00

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CUSTOMERS

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MON-FRI 10:00-18:00

YOUR MONEY

Temporary files often can be a prolonged pain

Q. I downloaded a program to my desktop and now I can't find it.

A. It's not visible anywhere. So I went back to the instructions and followed the path to XVBFILKE and found a whole list of what seems like hundreds of files of gibberish from 0 bytes to 1 or 2 KB, all wasting space, I think.

These are located in folders called temporary. Will more accumulate?

—Douglas Ploss (@theramp.net)

A. You have encountered the wild and woolly world of Web apps and other Internet-borne detritus that continually gets written to one's hard drive while using features of Web sites from simple animations to complex games. I keep telling myself not to worry my pretty little head over such things, but like you, Mr. P., I do fret.

These temporary files are inescapable components of Web sites and one can't avoid them while online. From time to time they can cause problems of some severity.

In Microsoft Internet Explorer, click on Tools and then General. There you will find a button to delete the files. You also have to command there to restrict the size of the hard-drive space that they are allowed to use. Owners of modern computers with storage measured in gigabytes don't really need to do this, but it's good to remember that temporary files can be the culprit for all kinds of strange happenings.

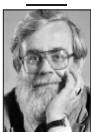
Q. May I ask what's a banner and what does they mean when they tell me a Web site needs use of "ALT" tags in order to be competitive.

—Felicia Carparelli (@rentamother.com)

A. When you pass a mouse over an icon, a picture or a link it is possible to make a little box appear, usually with a yellow background and black type saying something about it. They are called ALT tags because the Web-page programming key for them is "ALT".

Here is a link to an explanation: <http://uaweb.arizona.edu/resources/tutorial/imagemap.html>.

Ask Jim



Jim Coates

Banners are those things at the top of Web pages generated for advertising. They also can simply jazz up content. Here is a site that will help you get rolling with banners: www.animation-online.com/sn/banner-templates.html.

Let me sound a whine of caution, however. All the flashing and bells and whistles like tags and banners and marquees that a new Web site programmer learns about can soon detract from the content — not completeness. As in on-camera programming, the motto for Web site creators should always be KISS (keep it simple, stupid).

Q. I am confused about the new DVD formats, and your recent column discussing them only added to my confusion.

Are you saying that a DVD+R disc could be made to work in a DVD-R player if the disc is finalized? I use Ulead VideoStudio 7, Pinnacle Systems Studio 7, and Sonic MyDVD software. This whole DVD+R versus DVD-R issue has been a major headache for me.

—Steve Houghton @new.rv.com

A. As you suspect, there are a fairly large number of DVD players, particularly older models, some of which have security checks that block them from seeing the boot sector of a home-brewed DVD.

When one scans major lists of DVD players by capability, it turns out that there are some machines that will be able to see a DVD-R that has been finalized by a DVD+R writer. Go figure.

Meanwhile, new players are built by companies aiming directly at home hobby diskmakers and include coverage for the whole ball of wax.

You can review product models at places like www.videohelp.com, but look on the top of the left side of that Web site for "what is DVD-R".

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at jcoates@tribune.com or snail mail at the Chicago Tribune, Room 409, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60611. Questions can be answered only through this column. Also see www.chicagotribune.com/askjim.

Dollar 'dropping' like a block against won

By TERI WEAVER

Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — It only takes a quick glance at an ATM receipt to realize just how weak the U.S. dollar is getting: On Friday, \$1 equaled 1,001 won.

"It's one-to-one," said Spc. Joseph Sia, shaking his head Friday afternoon while standing outside the Community Bank branch on Main Post.

The value of the dollar has been plummeting around the globe, and its exchange rate against the won is no exception. On Thursday, the dollar hit a seven-year low against the won, South Korean media reported.

The U.S. Federal Reserve Board put Thursday's exchange rate at 1,027.85 won per dollar, meaning it would take 97 cents to buy 1,000-won note. A year ago, a dollar bought 1,180 won, according to the Federal Reserve.

But the military rates used at on-base ATMs offer less generous exchange rates. Commercial rates typically reflect the rate for exchanging millions of dollars in a single transaction rather than \$60 withdrawn from an ATM. For bank customers, Friday's rate meant it takes 99 cents to buy 1,000 won.

"I remember when I got here, it was 1,100," won to a dollar, said Pfc. Daniel Schremer, 19, of Warsaw, Mo., who arrived in South Korea in May to serve with the 1-2 Aviation Battalion at Camp Page. "It's started dropping like a block."

Military officials have increased the cost-of-living allowance for soldiers like Sia and Schremer three times in re-

cent months to soften the blow. The most recent change put the rate at 32 cents, meaning a portion of every servicemember's paycheck increases by nearly a third.

That COLA rate likely will be reviewed in the coming weeks, especially as results become available from the current financial survey among servicemembers. The survey, conducted by the 175th Finance Command, is an online list of questions that measure how servicemembers spend money, both on- and off-base, on things like food, phone calls and other personal items.

The survey is at <http://175fin.com.korea.army.mil> and will be available until Feb. 7.

Every little bit counts, said Staff Sgt. Kyle Anderson, 34, of San Antonio, who works at the Yongsan Health Clinic in medical supplies.

"Any adjustment is always a help," he said Friday after checking his bank balance at the ATM inside the Dragon Hill Lodge at Yongsan. "But is the adjustment making up for the loss? I don't know."

Anderson said he uses an additional method for reducing the impact of a weak exchange rate: bargaining with vendors off-base to get a better deal.

But Sia, 20, of Daly City, Calif., said he rarely has time to seek out better exchange rates and prices outside of Yongsan.

"I just don't have the time to go off-post," he said Friday afternoon after getting dollars from the ATM. He already had stocked up on won earlier in the day. "It's easier for me to take it out of Community Bank."

E-mail Teri Weaver at: weaver@stripes.eds.mil

FRIDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week High	52-week Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% YTD	52-week High	52-week Low
10,868.77	9,762.40	Dow Jones Industrials	10,847.20	-48.19	-.19	10,868.77	9,762.40
3,823.96	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,845.94	-0.28	-.01	3,823.96	2,743.46
229.56	205.88	Dow Jones Utilities	229.56	+1.12	+.48	229.56	205.88
7,273.18	6,211.33	NASDAQ Composite	7,031.99	-16.98	-.24	7,273.18	6,211.33
1,428.24	1,326.74	NYSE Composite	1,428.24	-6.1	-.42	1,428.24	1,326.74
2,191.69	1,925.82	Russell 2000	2,053.83	-1.22	-.06	2,191.69	1,925.82
12,517.90	10,664.72	S&P 500	11,716.36	-3.19	-.27	12,517.90	10,664.72
545.29	540.47	Chicago S&W	545.29	-2.99	-.54	545.29	540.47
61.55	515.59	Russell 2000	61.55	-3.00	-.49	61.55	515.59
12,024.36	10,624.52	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,512.25	-32.46	-.28	12,024.36	10,624.52

NYSE				AMEX				NASDAQ			
Most Active	(1st or more)	Most Active	(1st or more)	Most Active	(1st or more)	Most Active	(1st or more)	Most Active	(1st or more)	Most Active	(1st or more)
Apple	19,964	34.85	+1.17	Microsoft	28,800	31.48	-.08	Microsoft	10,789	36.18	-.18
Price's	5,139	54.15	+1.17	Microsoft	28,800	31.48	-.08	Microsoft	10,789	36.18	-.18
General	1,196	4.50	+0.01	Microsoft	28,800	31.48	-.08	Microsoft	10,789	36.18	-.18
S&P 500	4,304	21.15	+3.21	Microsoft	28,800	31.48	-.08	Microsoft	10,789	36.18	-.18
General	1,196	4.50	+0.01	Microsoft	28,800	31.48	-.08	Microsoft	10,789	36.18	-.18
Price's	20,910	24.16	+3.21	Microsoft	28,800	31.48	-.08	Microsoft	10,789	36.18	-.18
General	1,196	4.50	+0.01	Microsoft	28,800	31.48	-.08	Microsoft	10,789	36.18	-.18
Nifty	18,544	33.41	+3.21	Microsoft	28,800	31.48	-.08	Microsoft	10,789	36.18	-.18
General	1,196	4.50	+0.01	Microsoft	28,800	31.48	-.08	Microsoft	10,789	36.18	-.18

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				KEY MUTUAL FUNDS			
Name	52-week High	52-week Low	% YTD	Name	52-week High	52-week Low	% YTD
Atlantic Technology	10.00	6.65	+3.13	Fidelity Investor: Global	37.44	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
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KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				KEY MUTUAL FUNDS			
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Atlantic Technology	10.00	6.65	+3.13	Fidelity Investor: Global	37.44	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8
Boeing	100.00	77.00	+2.00	Fidelity Investor: Divd	28.31	-3.4	-2.8

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates				Commercial rates			
Name	52-week High	52-week Low	% YTD	Name	52-week High	52-week Low	% YTD
Japanese Yen (Jan. 31)	101.00	101.00	0.00	British pound (Jan. 31)	0.5194	0.5194	0.00
South Korean won (Jan. 29)	1,001.00	1,001.00	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Euro (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Dollar buys (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
British pound (Jan. 31)	0.5194	0.5194	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Bahraini (Dinar)	0.2766	0.2766	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Denmark (Krone)	0.6926	0.6926	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Egypt (Pound)	0.7975	0.7975	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Canada (Dollar)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7975	0.7975	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Israel (Sheqel)	0.4000	0.4000	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Iceland (Krona)	0.6926	0.6926	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Japan (Yen)	101.00	101.00	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Norway (Krone)	0.6926	0.6926	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Philippines (Peso)	0.6926	0.6926	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	0.2766	0.2766	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Singapore (Dollar)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
South Korea (Won)	1,001.00	1,001.00	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Switzerland (Franc)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Thailand (Baht)	0.3486	0.3486	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Turkey (New Lira)	1,404.00	1,404.00	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00

Military exchange rates				Commercial exchange rates			
Name	52-week High	52-week Low	% YTD	Name	52-week High	52-week Low	% YTD
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Bahraini (Dinar)	0.2766	0.2766	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Denmark (Krone)	0.6926	0.6926	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Egypt (Pound)	0.7975	0.7975	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Canada (Dollar)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7975	0.7975	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Israel (Sheqel)	0.4000	0.4000	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Iceland (Krona)	0.6926	0.6926	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Japan (Yen)	101.00	101.00	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Norway (Krone)	0.6926	0.6926	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Philippines (Peso)	0.6926	0.6926	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	0.2766	0.2766	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Singapore (Dollar)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
South Korea (Won)	1,001.00	1,001.00	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Switzerland (Franc)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Thailand (Baht)	0.3486	0.3486	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00
Turkey (New Lira)	1,404.00	1,404.00	0.00	Swiss franc (Jan. 31)	0.7538	0.7538	0.00

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Preventing ID theft

MarketWatch
NEW YORK — Stolen or lost wallets, checkbooks, purses and credit cards collectively are the leading means of identity theft, according to a report by the Better Business Bureau and Javelin Strategy and Research.

To protect yourself, clean out your wallet.

Take out your Social Security card. Carry it with you only if you know you're going to need it.

Limit the number of credit cards you carry.

If you have lost your wallet: Cancel your credit cards. Include a police report. This is important for later disputing charges and clearing your name in the event of other identity theft.

If you keep checks in your wallet, call the bank and tell an officer that an alert is being put on your report to stall new requests for credit.

Notify the three major credit-reporting agencies — Equifax, Experian and Trans Union. Ask that an alert be put on your report to stall new requests for credit.

OPINION

High self-esteem feels good, yet fails flat

By ROY F. BAUMEISTER

Does low self-esteem lie at the root of all human suffering, failure and evil? When I ran my first research study on self-esteem in 1973, that certainly seemed to be the case. Psychologists everywhere were convinced that if only we could help people to accept and love themselves more, their problems would gradually vanish and their lives would flourish. They would even treat each other better.

Not surprisingly, California led the way, establishing a task force for exploring ways to boost healthy self-esteem to solve personal and social problems. The task force members — like many of us — were undeterred by the weakness and ambiguity of the evidence suggesting a benefit in boosting self-esteem; we all believed the data would come along in good time.

Then-Assemblyman John Vasconcellos (and many other experts) predicted that self-esteem could solve, or at least help solve, such problems as crime, teen pregnancy, pollution, school failure and underachievement, drug abuse and domestic violence. (Vasconcellos even expressed the hope that higher self-esteem would one day help balance the state budget — a prospect predicated on the observation that people with high self-regard earn more than others and therefore pay more in taxes.) A generation and many millions of dollars later, it turns out we may have been mistaken. Five years ago, the American Psychological Society commissioned me and several other experts to weigh with an open mind through the enormous amount of published research on the subject and to assess the benefits of high self-esteem.

Here are some of our disappointing findings. High self-esteem in schoolchildren does not produce better grades. (Actually, kids with high self-esteem do have slightly

better grades in most studies, but that's because getting good grades leads to higher self-esteem, not the other way around.) According to a study by Donald Forsyth at Virginia Commonwealth University, college students with mediocre grades who received regular self-esteem strokes from their professors ended up doing worse on final exams than students who were told to suck it up and try harder.

Self-esteem doesn't make adults perform better at their jobs either. Sure, people with high self-esteem rate their own performance better — even declaring themselves smarter and more attractive than their low-self-esteem peers — but neither objective tests nor impartial raters can detect any difference in the quality of work.

Likewise, people with high self-esteem think they make better impressions, have stronger friendships and have better romantic lives than other people, but the evidence doesn't support their self-flattering views. If anything, people who love themselves too much sometimes annoy other people by their defensive or know-it-all attitudes.

Self-esteem doesn't predict who will make a good leader, and some work (including that of psychologist Robert Hogan writing in the *Harvard Business Review*) has found humility rather than self-esteem to be a key trait of successful leaders.

It was widely believed that low self-esteem could be a cause of violence but, in reality, violent individuals and groups are not the very best of themselves. They turn violent toward others who fail to give them the inflated respect they think they deserve. Nor does high self-esteem deter people from becoming bullies, according to most of the studies that have been done; it is simply untrue that beneath the surface of every obnoxious bully is an unhappy, self-hating child in need of sympathy and praise.

High self-esteem doesn't prevent youngsters from cheating or stealing or experi-

Nobody was a Noddy like you in all the world. That makes you a very unique and special person. You are proud of that!



SELF-ESTEEM BUILDING IN THE PAST

menting with drugs and sex. (If anything, kids with high self-esteem may be more willing to try these things at a young age.)

There were a few areas where higher self-esteem seemed to bring some benefits. For instance, people with high self-esteem are generally happier and less depressed than others, though we can't quite prove that high self-esteem prevents depression or causes happiness. Young women with high self-esteem seem less susceptible to eating disorders. In some studies (though not all), people with high self-esteem bounce back from misfortune and trauma faster than others.

High self-esteem also promotes initiative. People who have it are more likely to speak up in a group, persist in the face of failure, resist other people's advice or pressure and strike up conversations with strangers. Of course, initiative can cut both ways: a study on bullying found that self-esteem was

HOLY COW! WHAT A WHISKER... DON'T WORRY, WE'LL MAKE YOU A SWAN WITH A LOT OF SURGERY AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, A LITTLE BREAST AUGMENTATION CAN'T HURT.



MODERN DAY SELF-ESTEEM BUILDING

high among the bullies and among the people who intervened to resist them. Low self-esteem marked the victims of bullying.

In short, despite the enthusiastic embrace of self-esteem, we found that it conferred only two benefits: It feels good and it supports initiative. Those are nice, but they are far less than we had once hoped for, and it is very questionable whether they justify the effort and expense that schools, parents and therapists have put into raising self-esteem.

After all these years, I'm sorry to say, my recommendation is this: Forget about self-esteem and concentrate more on self-control and self-discipline.

Recent work suggests this would be good for the individual and good for society — and might even be able to fill some of those promises that self-esteem once made but could not keep.

Roy F. Baumeister, a professor in the department of psychology at Florida State University, is the author of "The Cultural Animal." This column first appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*.

Religious right pitching a fit inside GOP's big tent

By ELMER SMITH
Philadelphia Daily News

For years, Christian conservatives have backed the GOP for a kiss and a promise. They usually end up with a kiss-off. But that screeching noise from under the GOP's big tent this year is the sound of religious right makes when it tires of turning the other cheek.

In a warning as clear as the Ten Commandments, some of President Bush's most ardent supporters have told him to move the anti-gay marriage amendment closer to the top of his agenda or they will withdraw their support for his Social Security reform.

Leading the charge is the Arlington Group, a newly formed coalition of religious leaders who backed the president in part because he claimed he'd fight for the ban. But Bush didn't even mention it in his inaugural address, nor was it listed in a 10-point legislative agenda Republican congressional leaders unveiled last week.

The Rev. James Dobson of Focus on the Family, one of the leaders of the Arlington Group, took one look at the GOP agenda and ordered an immediate revision.

"If Republicans," Dobson said in an interview on the Focus on the Family Web site, "do what they've done in the past, which is say 'thanks so much for putting us in power; now we don't want to talk to you anymore,' they will pay a serious price in four or maybe two years."

That's pretty tough talk. Considering the clout they brought to this last presidential election, you'd think they were in a position

to demand what they want.

You'd be wrong. The president hardly lifted a finger to fight for an anti-gay-marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution in his first four years. He may actually lift a finger this time. But he won't get it done.

Nor will conservatives make much headway in the fight to alter Roe v. Wade. Abortion foes who helped elect them last year are getting the same old lip service they get after each election.

The crowd who showed up on the National Mall in the annual March for Life last Monday got a canned speech from the president's retreat in Camp David. No Republi-

can president in 25 years has showed up for the march.

"The America of our dreams where every child is welcomed in law ..." Bush said, "may still be some ways away."

He pointed out the ban on partial-birth abortions passed last year. But conservatives know that law won't even make a dent in the more-than-a-million legal abortions a year performed since Roe v. Wade.

It's going to take a lot more to appease the Arlington Group.

In a letter to Karl Rove this month they criticized Bush's "defeatist attitude on an issue that is at the top of our agenda." If

Bush is "reluctant to devote the same energy to preserving traditional marriage," the letter said, it would "create outrage with countless voters who stood with him a few weeks ago."

That would be the same kind of outrage black voters and labor leaders have felt when the Democratic Party has abandoned their agendas for a less moderate path. They fire off nasty confidential letters, which they later leak to the press. They threaten mass defections.

But in the end, they are left to choose between the gradualism of their own party and the total disregard of the other party. Welcome to the big tent.

By BRUCE TINSLEY

Mallard Fillmore

Mallards sage
SUPER BOWL
Prediction #1



Fans will applaud new NFL rules mandating fines and jail time...

...for announcers who beat tired old catchphrases to death...

OOOOH... HE TAKES IT TO THE HOUSE!

Stadium in the pink

ME PORTLAND — The agency that maintains the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' stadium has filed a lawsuit against a Maine seat manufacturer, claiming that shoddy craftsmanship caused the stadium's red seats to turn pink.

In the lawsuit, the Tampa Sports Authority says the original red seats, designed to match the team's uniforms, have faded to an "unsightly pink" and that the paint on the seat's stanchions has bubbled and peeled.

The suit says that Hussey Seating Co. of North Berwick last year promised to replace the seats before the start of the 2005 football season. But Hussey officials told the authority earlier this month that it could not meet the deadline.

eBay buyer beware

CA SACRAMENTO — A man is accused of selling almost \$100,000 worth of Rolex watches and professional sports tickets on the Web site eBay, but never delivering the goods.

Gilbert Vartanian was arrested Thursday in the Sacramento suburb of Fremont on 12 counts of mail fraud.

Vartanian is accused of defrauding more than 10 victims of \$93,324.52 between January 2001 and June 2004. He maintained at least three eBay accounts and more than a dozen user names, according to a federal grand jury indictment.

The victims believed they were buying Rolexes and tickets to the New York Knicks, Pittsburgh Steelers, New England Patriots, New York Giants, Green Bay Packers, Philadelphia 76ers and the New York Jets, and for boxing and auto racing events.

Dumping sparks lawsuit

KY PIKEVILLE — Environmentalists have sued the federal government in an attempt to stop coal mining companies from looting off the tops of mountains and dumping the rocks and dirt into valleys.

The lawsuit seeks to stop the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from issuing permits for the dumping, which environmentalists claim will destroy Kentucky's streams.

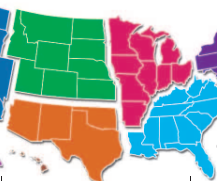
"This is an absurd and outrageous abuse of their power and neglect of their duty to protect the nation's waterways," said Teri Blanton, a member of Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, one of three groups that filed the suit Thursday in Lexington.

The mining industry has increasingly relied on mountaintop removal to expose coal seams because it's a quick and efficient process.

Parade protesters walk

CO DENVER — Never mind. Three days after firmly vowing to prosecute all the approximately 230 remaining cases against Columbus Day parade protesters, City Attorney Cole Finnegan has announced that he will instead dismiss them.

Finnegan's announcement cited a string of recent judicial rulings in the protesters' favor, plus the acquittal of eight protest organizers who stood trial last week for blocking the Oct. 9 parade.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

The Columbus Day parade has been a lightning rod for controversy for more than a decade. American Indian Movement activists arrested for blocking the 1991 parade were acquitted at a 1992 trial, and the parade was then shelved until 2000.

Protests at the 2000 parade led to 139 more arrests; all those defendants saw their cases dismissed a few months later. More than 240 people were arrested at the event last year, for blocking the parade's progress.

The protesters have said they acted out of a moral duty to stop what they see as an act of ethnic intimidation, because they see the event as a celebration of a historical figure they blame for the genocide and oppression of millions.

Sheriffs snub smokers

FL TAMPA — Smokers, put down that nicotine stick and take note: If you want to be a cop in Tampa Bay, you might want to kick the habit.

Smokers already are shunned from restaurants, malls and movie theaters. Now the sheriffs in Hillsborough and Pasco counties say they will ban cigarettes and other tobacco products from the mouths and lungs of their forces.

Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee and Pasco County Sheriff Bob White won't hire people who are smokers, cigar users or tobacco chewers, even if they only indulge when off-duty. Sworn depu-

ties already on the force will be encouraged to toss their Marlboros and Camels whenever on duty and in public.

In Pasco, the Sheriff's Office will only hire applicants who do not smoke or use any tobacco products "in any way, either on or off duty" and have not used tobacco in the previous six months. The policy, which took effect last week, won't apply to current employees, but spokesman Doug Tobin said, "We believe all employees could benefit by participating."

ATV driver rams officer

NH PELHAM — Police are expanding their search for a scotflaw ATV driver who ran down a police lieutenant, sending him flying into the air.

Lt. Joseph Roark, who suffered a minor shoulder injury in Monday's incident, said investigators hope to get leads that will lead them to the driver and two companions.

Police say they are working with neighboring departments to identify the three, who wore helmets, face plates and full body suits.

Error fuels gas deal

NE OMAHA — A misplaced decimal point on a gas station's surprisingly good deal on gas, and fueled some threats of violence.

Carolyn Folsom, who occasionally helps her brother and father run the self-service Shell station, said she goofed Wednesday when entering prices into the computer that runs the fuel tanks. A gallon of regular, unleaded gasoline was supposed to sell for \$1.89 but ended up costing only 18 cents.

Folsom said about 500 gallons of gas were sold during the several hours the price was down, costing the business about \$1,000. The station does not have an attendant and the only way to pay is at the pump, so the mistake went unnoticed for hours.

A fuel truck driver who came to deliver gas discovered the problem and tried to block the entrance of the station with his truck, Folsom said.

But by then word was out and the rush for cheap fuel was on.

Folsom said one person threatened to hit the fuel truck driver with a hammer if he didn't stop blocking the entrance.

Criminal stupidity

DE NEW CASTLE — It could be the world's worst first date.

New Castle County police say that after two men robbed the pizza delivery woman, one of them called the victim on his cell phone to apologize — and to ask her out on a date.

The victim, 18, declined the request. Instead, she gave the cell phone number to police, who arrested Brent Brown, 25.

Through a photo lineup, the victim also identified Brown as one of the robbers.

Officers searched a residence and found the pizza boxes in the trash can with the original receipt still attached.

"It would make a perfect story for the television show, 'The World's Dumbest Criminals,'" said county police spokesman Cpl. Trinidad Navarro.



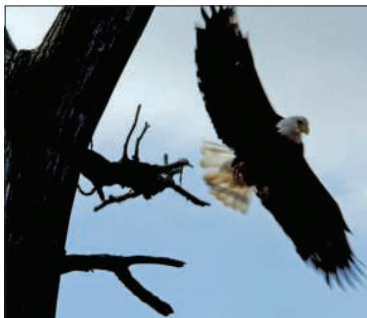
Peaceful panda

Giant panda Mei Xiang, one of two giant pandas at the National Zoo, takes time to enjoy the year's first snowfall in Washington, D.C.



Downhill all the way

Megan McElmeel, 7, left, helps push Kelsey Sands, 10, center, and Megan's twin sister, Liz McElmeel, 7, right, down the hill while sledding in Waterloo, Iowa.



Just winging it

An American bald eagle takes off from a perch above the floodwaters of the Illinois River south of the boat launch in Meredosia, Ill.



Shooting for success

Josh Elliott, 8, of Anderson, S.C., gets ready to hit the cue ball while playing pool at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club in Anderson, S.C.



Kayak country Penny Garner of Poulsbo, Wash., takes her kayak out for the first time this year on a warm day in at the Poulsbo Marina.



Surf's (not) up! Rick Chavez, 20, rides a skim board in the shallow surf of Miami Beach, Fla.



Shootaround Lisa Turner, left, helps her daughter, Taska, with her jump shot in Paris, Texas.



It's all about trout Gary Miller casts for steelhead trout in Lake Erie near Avon Lake, Ohio. In the background, ice chunks have formed atop the breakwater.

No shorts, no freedom

TN MEMPHIS — The naked jogger has met his fate: a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine for running around the neighborhood without his shorts.

Fate Patterson, 39, of West Memphis, Ark., was convicted Wednesday of indecent exposure, fleeing and resisting arrest.

Municipal Court Judge William P. Rainey sentenced him to a fully clad year behind bars.

Police had received reports for several months from a West Memphis neighborhood of a man jogging in the nude before they arrested Patterson on Jan. 11, an unseasonably warm day.

Officers said they saw Patterson jogging bare from the waist down and ordered him to stop. When he kept running, officers used a stun gun to pause the pursuit of the pantsless perpetrator.

Boy can swallow again

AZ PHOENIX — Surgeons created a new esophagus for a 5-year-old boy from Peru who hasn't been able to swallow food since accidentally drinking a cleaning solution when he was 18 months old.

Doctors at Banner Desert Medical Center in suburban Mesa said Wednesday's 6½-hour operation on Patrick Pacherez was a success and the boy may be able to go home in three months depending on his progress.

The hospital and doctors donated their services with Pacherez's trip to Arizona arranged by Healing the Children, a non-profit volunteer organization that secures medical treatment for seriously ill children from around the world.

Colleges seek farmers

CT MERIDEN — Mealy apples, boxed mashed potatoes, frozen veggie mixes and suspicious meats drive many a college student to the cereal and bagel bins.

But dining halls from Bates College in Maine to the University of California at Santa Cruz are improving their food and helping their local agricultural economies by going straight to the farm.

They're seeking out small and medium-sized farmers near campus for fresh produce, meat and dairy products. Most of the farmers grow organic crops or use pesticides sparingly and practice methods of sustainable agriculture, such as crop rotation.

About 200 colleges nationwide purchase at least one product from a small farm in their community or state, according to Kristen Markley, National Farm to College Program Manager of the Community Food Security Coalition.

Unfortunate incident

CA HAYWARD James Charles Booth was a week from retiring with a pension. The 65-year-old forklift mechanic and father, whose wife died five years ago, was looking forward to driving his RV to his new house in Nevada to pursue his love of car racing.

Known as "Gramps," Booth had lived in his home for more than a decade. But his modest neighborhood had deteriorated, gunshots rang out at night and rival gangs resorted to violence to protect their turf, acquaintances say.

Booth was ready to leave it all and start his life anew. But at 9:15

p.m. Wednesday, he heard a disturbance outside and went to his front porch to check it out. Shots rang out, and one bullet struck him in the chest. He died at his home, the innocent victim of a gang dispute, police said.

Rat 'amusement park'

IL CHICAGO — A jury handed down guilty verdicts Thursday in the federal trial of a cold storage company accused of unsanitary conditions at a food warehouse described by prosecutors as "an amusement park for rats."

LaGro Distribution System Inc. and its president, Jack Stewart, were convicted on all counts, said Randall Samborn, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office.

Stewart, 55, was accused of conspiring to cover up unsanitary conditions at the 500,000-square foot warehouse that supplied meat and other foods to stores and restaurants throughout the Chicago area.

Child sex charge

CA SACRAMENTO — A 49-year-old man on probation for soliciting sex with a minor in July 2000 has been indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge of crossing state lines to have sex with a 14-year-old girl last year, authorities say.

Michael Dahl was charged after he left his cell phone at an ex-girlfriend's home and she answered a tearful call on it from his 14-year-old victim, according to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court.

Dahl apparently had befriended the girl through a telephone personal ad service six weeks after being released from prison for violating his probation on a previous sex charge involving a minor, the complaint states.

Slush wars are on

ME PORTLAND — It's a brave new winter wonderland that has pitted neighbor against neighbor with reports of derelict property owners leaving their sidewalks covered with a slippery mush of snow and ice.

The city received scores of calls on Tuesday from people reporting their neighbors in violation of a long-standing ordinance requiring home owners and businesses to remove slippery snow and ice from their property.

"They go out with their pencils and go to town," said Maynard Sprague, a public works dispatcher.

City officials they had received complaints about 65 properties throughout Portland as of Tuesday.

'Choose Death'

SC COLUMBIA — South Carolina lawmakers are proposing several alternatives to the state's "Choose Life" license plates including "Choose Death," "Choose Abortion" and simply "Pro Choice."

The proposals were introduced after the U.S. Supreme Court this week refused to hear South Carolina's appeal of a ruling that found the state's "Choose Life" plates unconstitutional.

The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals had earlier ruled "Choose Life" plates violated the First Amendment because abortion rights supporters were not offered a similar plate.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

When was the last time you held someone's hand? It's just one of the friendly, supportive yet deeply intimate ways to take advantage of the Libran lunar energy. Hand-holding reminds us how we are all connected like interwoven fingers. While Jupiter is still flying straight, log in a request for something you'd like to receive by the end of the day.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(January 31). This year, you're the new kid on the block. In April, you gain fresh insights and could start a new job, one that possibly requires you to move into spacious new digs. Or your old job may take you into unmappped territory, with a whole different power source. Romance starts heating up in September and is sizzling by December.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are not alone. Someone's watching over you, sending out an SOS for help to arrive exactly when you need it most. Keep your eyes and ears open for that passing stranger who seems to have all the answers.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A sticky situation calls for a gentle touch. This is no time to be the bull in the china shop. The feelings of someone close to you are at stake—bead lightly. Forward momentum at work helps you score big.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A minor miscalculation with regard to finances may wind up costing you more time and money than anticipated. Be sure to double-check your bottom line before making that big purchase. At least you look fabulous.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're in uncharted waters when it comes to a love or career matter. Make like the cast of "Lost," and improvise. Be sure you know who your allies are. Act like you know what you're doing, even if you don't.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). With all the commotion swirling around you these days, it's easy to lose your sense of place and balance. It helps

to frequently check in with yourself, turning your attention inward to how you are feeling.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Survey the landscape of your life. What hills do you need to climb? Where can you rest a bit and catch your breath? Is the climate right to plant new seeds for growth? Draw up your own map, and then, forge ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

A new friendship could blossom for you over a cup of coffee or a shared ride in a taxi or elevator. Somewhere out there is that perfect stranger who knows someone who has what you're looking for.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If your Spidey sense is tingling when you meet someone on the job, there's probably a good reason for it. Careful, that cute new cubicle dweller may be angling for your position or even your boss'. Be polite and on alert.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

A hot financial pit has you seeing dollar signs everywhere you look. Be sure to consider your sources. There may be more here than is readily apparent. If everything checks out right, grab that brass ring, and don't let go.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Oh-ch-ch-changes are not the goat's specialty, but the motivation is strong enough, you jump right in. Consider this the universe's way of steering you in the right direction. If you need a few pointers, consult a Scorpio pal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

What is the secret behind that sparkle in your eyes, that extra spring in your step? You'll never tell. A romantic encounter or your passion for a creative endeavor is enough to keep you whistling while you work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Sometimes, it's best to just cut bait and let your inner fish get away. You can't win every battle or get every cat returned when you want it. Follow a different current, and let it lead you to victory.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



knows someone who has what you're looking for.

Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

Zits

Cathy

Hi and Lois

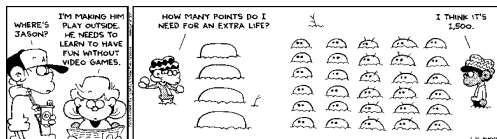
Beetle Bailey

Red and Rover

Better or Worse



Forkrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



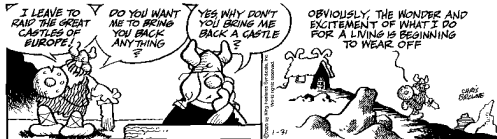
Blondie



Dilbert



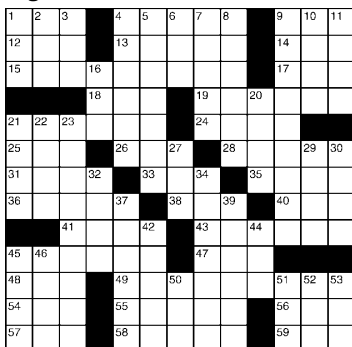
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 "Judging —"
- 4 Sample recordings
- 9 Commandment
- 12 Bill's partner
- 13 Glorify
- 14 "Norma —"
- 15 Movie studio employee
- 17 — Arbor, Mich.
- 18 Internet address
- 19 Garden insects
- 21 Biker's protection
- 24 Any second now
- 25 Oklahoma city
- 26 "A mouse!"
- 28 Believers in
- 31 Orange coat
- 33 Happy companion?
- 35 Patina
- 36 Bordeaux wine
- 38 Cushion
- 40 Comic DeLuise
- 41 Resorts
- 43 Octagonarian's next milestone
- 45 Pick
- 47 Past
- 48 Swiss canton
- 49 Baseball, slangily
- 54 Conclusion
- 55 Sends forth
- 56 Demure
- 57 Buck's mate

Down

- 58 Nasser's successor
- 59 Lamb's dam
- 22 Falco of "The Sopranos"
- 23 Overwhelming victory
- 27 One of Sennett's squad
- 29 Coin aperture
- 30 TV award
- 32 Nitwit
- 34 Card game
- 37 Hiding places
- 39 Condensed version
- 42 Leaf pore
- 44 Japanese theater
- 45 Sought damages
- 46 Cube-maker
- 50 Discumber
- 51 Apply frosting
- 52 DuPont rival
- 53 Viewfinder

Answer to Previous Puzzle



I-31 CRYPTOQUIP

GJS IRYCGORIKZ QTIKFO
NQE QLGYZIL Q KIH
ECGTQK: "HI YJZ YIGYCI

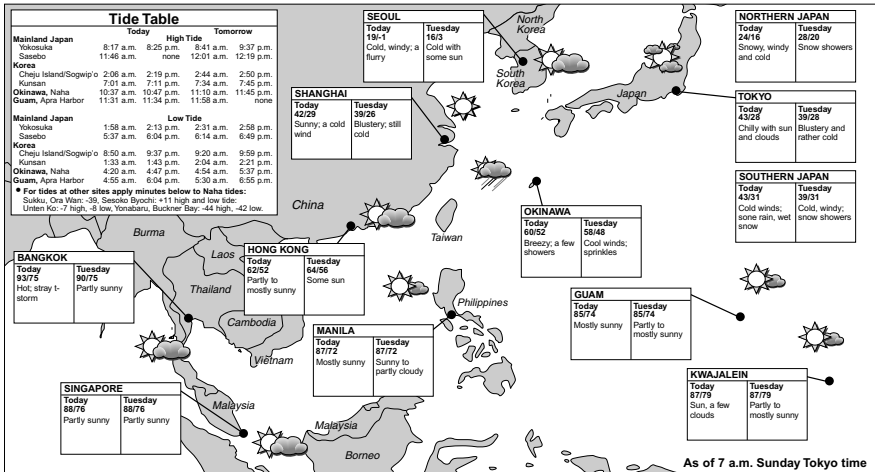
PK ZNIPS YCQFIE!"

Saturday's Cryptquip: WHEN TROUBLED YOUTHS REIMBURSE MONEY OWED, I SUPPOSE THOSE ARE DELINQUENT PAYMENTS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals P

The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

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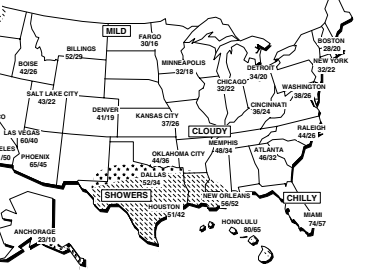
Extended Forecasts

TOKYO Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 43, low 32. Thursday: Partly sunny, high 45, low 32.	KADENA Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 43, low 50. Thursday: Showers, high 64, low 56.	SEoul Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high 23, low 8. Thursday: Mostly sunny, high 26, low 12.	MANILA Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 72. Thursday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 72.	HAGATNA Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sun, high 85, low 74. Thursday: Periods of clouds and sun, high 85, low 74.
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Saturday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	49/31	Los Angeles	64/46
Amarillo	47/30	Little Rock	44/36
Anchorage	22/14	Louisville	38/30
Ashville	26/23	Miami	75/63
Baltimore	35/26	Milwaukee	34/23
Birmingham	41/36	Nashville	39/34
Bismarck	31/22	New York	37/26
Boise	42/26	Omaha	35/25
Boston	32/22	Orlando	72/58
Brownsville	79/62	Philadelphia	34/26
Buffalo	33/22	Phoenix	61/44
Burlington	29/12	Pittsburgh	36/24
Charleston, SC	46/40	Portland, OR	52/41
Charlotte	27/25	Portland, ME	29/14
Cleveland	35/22	Salt Lake City	42/32
Columbus, OH	35/24	St. Louis	35/27
Duluth	31/16	San Antonio	62/50
El Paso	62/36	San Diego	61/48
Hartford	30/15	San Juan	81/70
Helena	42/22	Tampa	73/60
Indianapolis	35/26	Tulsa	36/30
Jacksonville	57/51	Washington, DC	36/28
Kansas City	35/25	Wichita	36/31

Monday, January 31



U.S. Extended Forecast

An area of high pressure will build into the Northeast Monday, providing sunshine and seasonal temperature. The Southeast will dry out after experiencing everything winter has to offer over the weekend. The southern Plains will remain damp with numerous showers and perhaps a few thunderstorms. High pressure will promote dry, chilly conditions in the Midwest and northern Plains. A strong area of high pressure will also provide seasonal temperatures and dry weather across much of the West. The only exception will be extreme northwestern Washington, which may get a bit of rain. Most places, except for the southern Plains, will remain dry this week.

Monday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	93/75	Iwakuni	41/27	Sasebo NB	41/31
Beijing	29/15	Kadena AB	60/52	Sapporo	24/16
Camp Casey	74/51	Kunsan AB	28/18	Seoul	19/-1
Christchurch	21/9	Kwajalein	87/79	Shanghai	42/28
Diego Garcia	85/78	Manila	87/72	Singapore	88/76
Hagatna	85/74	Misawa AB	27/17	Sydney	83/66
Hanoi	68/56	Osan	22/4	Taegu	29/15
Hong Kong	62/52	Perth	87/81	Taipei	62/50
Honolulu	80/65	Pusan	31/19	Tokyo	43/28

Monday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Buenos Aires	68/73	Katol	31/24	Nairobi	85/56
Cairo	75/48	Kiev	75/54	New Delhi	63/37
Cancun	84/66	Kuwait	73/57	Oslo	32/22
Cape Town	77/68	London	48/43	Paris	40/33
Geneva	34/30	Madrid	47/33	Rio de Janeiro	79/70
Honolulu	80/65	Mexico City	70/46	Rome	44/38
Jerusalem	64/46	Montreal	20/10	St. Petersburg	14/2
Johannesburg	83/61	Mogadishu	92/74	Stockholm	32/22
		Moscow	17/12	Warsaw	30/17



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JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Junior guard Luathati Johnson of Nile C. Kinnick (5) had 14 points and four steals Saturday in Kinnick's 42-35 victory over Robert D. Edgren.

Yokota girls fall to 14-1

Stars and Stripes

After winning 14 straight to open the season and lead the Japan Basketball League and Kanjo Plain Association of Secondary Schools, the Yokota Panthers girls team lost 54-42 on Saturday to the Seisen International Phoenix.

Despite the loss, Yokota has its best record after 15 games since the 1988-89 season, when the Panthers won their first Far East Tournament title. The Panthers last won the crown in 1991 and last appeared on center court in 1995.

Pacific girls scoring record survives another threat

The Pacific girls basketball

Prep roundup

game scoring record of 41 points remains, but it was threatened again on Saturday.

Senior guard Brianna Carroll of Pusan scored a career-high 38 points in the Panthers' 80-4 thrashing of Korea Kent Fought. Senior swingman Ka'leen Mathieu of Kubasaki, who netted 40 points in a game on Jan. 21, scored 37 in a losing cause Saturday as the Dragons lost 88-83 to the Futenna Red Brave. Kadena junior Elizabeth Cotto scored 34 points as the Panthers rallied past Uruseo Shogyo 65-62. Yvonne Sears of Robert D. Edgren set the record during the 2000 Class AA Tournament.

Serena wins seventh major title

Comes back to beat Davenport in Australian Open final

BY PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Serena Williams was losing and in pain, wincing on almost every swing. Her shots lacked their usual zing. Her hopes for a seventh Grand Slam title appeared doomed.

Then, with a little help from the trainer, the woman who calls herself the toughest fighter in tennis started getting her power back. And it was top-ranked Lindsay Davenport who was in trouble.

Williams rallied for a 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 victory in the Australian Open final Saturday for her first Grand Slam title in 18 months.

She also extended her winning streak in this event to 14 matches.

In Sunday's men's final — the first at night — third-seeded Lleyton Hewitt will face fourth-seeded Marat Safin, who is in his third final in four years at Melbourne Park but has yet to win one.

The Russian ended Roger Federer's 26-match winning streak in the semifinals, while Hewitt beat second-seeded Andy Roddick.

Davenport was sharp early. The match was a little more than a minute old and she had Williams running from side to side.

"I reached for a backhand and I think it tweaked my back out, one of my ribs out," said Williams, who will jump to No. 2 in the rankings.

Injuries had played a part in Williams' fall from the top spot, and it looked as if her health would fail her again Saturday.

"I said: 'This is not happening again,'" she said.

She tried to play through the pain.

"I never, ever think that I have to give up, in the most dire situations," Williams said. Still, "For the next few games I was completely out of it. I had to adjust."

Williams was down 4-1 when she asked for help.

"I finally decided, 'OK, why don't you call it for the trainer and see if she can put it back in place?' She did, and everything worked out," Williams said.

It wasn't quite that simple. Although Williams started to loosen up, Davenport went on to win the first set. The turning point came as Williams served at 2-2 in the second. Appearing twice to be on the verge of smashing her racket, she fended off six break points to hold.

"I was serving so many balls my arm was hurting," Williams recalled. "I kept thinking 'I'm not losing this game — I don't care if my arm falls off.'"

A tiebreaker loomed as Davenport served at 3-4, 40-0. Two double-faults and a couple of other errors later, and it was 5-3.

Davenport never had another chance, losing the last nine games and winning only eight points in the third set.

"I felt like I was playing well and in control pretty much of the match," Davenport said. "Then I just had that horrible lapse ... and



AP

Serena Williams leaves Melbourne with her seventh trophy from a Grand Slam event, and her first in 18 months, after a 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Lindsay Davenport in the Australian Open on Saturday.

opened up the door for her. She just kept going through it.

"At the end I think I was a little bit fatigued. But she took advantage of it and kept going — she's a great front-runner when she gets going."

Steady morning rain forced the roof at Rod Laver Arena to close for the 10th all-American women's final in the Australian Open.

In the men's doubles championship, Zimbabwe's Wayne Black and Kevin Ullyett beat American twins Bob and Mike Bryan 6-4, 6-4. In was the second Grand Slam title for Black and Ullyett, who won the 2001 U.S. Open. The Bryans also lost last year's final.

In mixed doubles, Martina

Navratilova, 48, and Max Mirnyi of Belarus lost their semifinal to Ullyett and Lizele Huber of South Africa 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (8). Navratilova has 18 Grand Slam singles titles, 31 in doubles and nine in mixed doubles.

Williams reached the final by staving off three match points in a semifinal victory over Maria Sharapova on Thursday.

With her Grand Slam drought over, Williams started talking about winning an eighth major and regaining the No. 1 spot. The French Open is next, and a victory there would give her two titles in each of the four majors.

Williams won her first Australian Open when she beat sister Venus in the final here two years ago — when the Williams sisters were at the top of women's tennis — but couldn't defend the title last year because of a knee injury.

Working through a series of injuries and the shooting death of her sister, Yelene Dine, in September 2003, took a toll on Serena Williams last year.

She said regaining the Australian title was the start of a resurgence.

"This gives me confidence," she said.

After Davenport's backhand landed long on match point, Williams dropped to one knee and raised both arms. She hopes this title will end talk of the demise of the Williams sisters.

"There's nothing wrong with us," she said. "We're still players to beat."

Top seed Lindsay Davenport, who admitted feeling fatigued near the end of the women's final, lost the last nine games and won only eight points in the third set.

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Eagles' Mitchell just fires up Patriots

By Rob Maaddi
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Freddie Mitchell's big mouth struck again.

The Philadelphia Eagles' other loquacious receiver — the one without the Pro Bowl pedigree and ankle injury — defended some Patriots when he dissed their secondary in a television interview.

Mitchell, a starter only because All-Pro Terrell Owens is hurt, said he just knew the numbers — not the names — of New England's cornerbacks. He singled out Rodney Harrison, saying he "has something" for the veteran strong safety.

"It just shows he doesn't have respect for us," Patriots cornerback Asante Samuel said Friday, responding to Mitchell's comments from a day earlier.

The Patriots' defensive backs will see Mitchell up next when the defending champions meet the Eagles in the Super Bowl next Sunday.

"You have so many young guys nowadays, so many young guys that don't have respect for the game," Harrison said. "Some people are just immature. Some people really haven't experienced certain things."

The Patriots have a patchwork secondary that includes a rookie free agent (Randall Gay), a converted wide receiver (Troy Brown) and a game-changer (Preston) who's taking college courses before the playoffs started.

Starters Tyrone Poole and Ty

Law have been sidelined by injuries most of the season, but the full-ins shut down Peyton Manning and the rest of the Indianapolis Colts in a second-round playoff game and intercepted three passes off Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger in the AFC championship game.

"Freddie Mitchell is a guy who is getting time now because Terrell is hurt," Patriots linebacker Willie McGinest said. "We don't worry about what he's saying. He will have to deal with that on the field."

"All I can say is, Rodney Harrison is the wrong guy to mention, especially if you're a receiver. He (Mitchell) is not humble. He hasn't done enough in this league to be on TV talking about that. Philly has a lot more class than that. It's just one guy."

Mitchell's response to the Patriots' reaction "I was joking. I don't care. It'll all be solved on Sunday," he said.

A first-round pick in 2001, Mitchell hasn't lived up to his potential in four seasons with the Eagles. He had five catches for 65 yards and two touchdowns, including one on a play recovery, in Philadelphia's second-round playoff victory over Minnesota. He caught two passes for 20 yards in the NFC championship game against Atlanta.

"I'm a special player," Mitchell said after the victory over Minnesota. "I want to thank my hands for being so great."

Mitchell and the rest of the Eagles receivers clearly are tired of



PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/RRT

Philadelphia Eagles' Freddie Mitchell is tackled by Minnesota Vikings defender in the NFC championship game. Mitchell angered the Patriots' secondary with comments during a TV interview last week.

hearing about Owens, who had surgery to repair torn ankle ligaments on Dec. 22 and is trying to return for the Super Bowl despite his doctor's orders.

"We got that without T.O.," Mitchell said. "It's going to be a great addition if he comes, but we're going to stick with our guys. When he comes back, he'll be a huge help for us because he's one of the best receivers in the game. Until then, let's talk about Greg Lewis, Todd Pinkston and

Freddie Mitchell, the receivers who are here and won the NFC championship."

Mitchell later grabbed a reporter's microphone and bombarded Lewis with questions in a mock voice. "What about T.O.? Is he 80 percent? When is he coming back? How do the receivers get it done without T.O.?"

Lewis replied: "Everybody said we weren't capable of winning without T.O., but we proved them wrong."

Jury acquits CB Fuller of gambling, gun charges

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Baltimore Ravens cornerback Corey Fuller was acquitted Saturday of all three gambling and gun charges after being accused of running high-stakes card games at his house.

The six-member jury deliberated a few hours before rejecting two days of prosecution testimony on charges carrying a possible five-year prison sentence.

The prosecution failed to prove Fuller either kept a gambling house, a felony, or gambled illegally, a misdemeanor. The verdict on the felony count automatically cleared him of a related weapons charge.

"Everything he tells you has an independent, innocent, non-criminal explanation," defense attorney Gary Roberts argued.

But Prosecutor Matt Smith told jurors that Fuller presided over the games like "a pit boss," armed and demanding the house odds, which was put in a shoe box.

"It's not a game room," Smith said. "It's Casino Fuller, that's what it was."

Fuller, a 10-year NFL veteran, had 13 tackles and no sacks in 14 games this season.

Packers add RB coach Bennett

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Former Green Bay Packers Edgar Bennett was hired Friday as running backs coach.

Bennett replaces Johnny Roland, who accepted the same job with the New Orleans Saints. The team's fourth-round draft selection in 1992, Bennett is the ninth-ranked runner in Packers history with 3,553 yards from 1992-96. He also holds the team's season record for receptions by a running back with 78, set in 1994.

Bennett spent the last four years in the team's player development department, and it was recognized in 2003 as the best in the NFL. He also helped coach the running backs over the last few years, assisted coaches and performed evaluations on selected players.

Cowboys fire Jeffcoat

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys fired assistant coach Jim Jeffcoat on Friday, ending a 19-year relationship between the team and the former first-round draft pick.

Jeffcoat, who had one year left on his contract, coached defensive ends for five years.

Jeffcoat, a first-round draft choice of the Cowboys in 1983, spent 12 years with the team's defensive line before joining the team as an assistant line coach in 1998.

Hardaway returns to help Knicks halt streak

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Penny Hardaway watched from afar as the New York Knicks stumbled through a disastrous January.

Finally back with the team Friday after rehabbing his hamstring in his hometown of Memphis, Hardaway played a big part in helping his team end its seven-game slide.

Hardaway showed no rust in his first game in more than three weeks, making a key jumper with 36 seconds remaining to lead the Knicks to a 99-96 victory Friday night over the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers.

After being activated from the injured list prior to the game, Hardaway finished with 22 points and was on the court for the entire fourth quarter as the Knicks held off the Cavs, who were without LeBron James (sprained ankle) for the last time this season.

"We missed him a lot. A player like that, you can't replace him," Cavs center Zydrunas Ilgauskas said.

Six days after taking over for Lenny Williams, Herb Williams gained his first victory as coach of the Knicks.

Bobcats 101, Raptors 94: Kareem Rush scored 21 points and host Charlotte figured out how to make foul shots in time to snap a 10-game losing streak.

Awful at the free-throw line during its slide, Charlotte made 17 of 19 attempts in winning for the first time since Jan. 5.

Magic 108, Wizards 101: Hedo Turkoglu matched his career-high with 31 points — in the second quarter — and the Magic ended visiting Washington's four-game winning streak.

Grant Hill added 22 points and eight rebounds for Orlando, and Steve Francis made two free throws with 16.6 seconds left. Gilbert Arenas scored 18 of his 30 in the fourth quarter for Washington, but missed five of seven free throws in the final 2:02.

Suns 128, Celtics 119: At Boston, Amare Stoudemire scored 42 points, Quentin Richardson added 23 and Phoenix won its fourth straight game.

Joe Johnson and Jim Jackson scored 17 points each for the

Suns, Shawn Marion added 16 and Steve Nash had 13 points and 15 assists.

Heat 106, Hawks 96: At Atlanta, Miami's Shaquille O'Neal scored 26 points and actually made more free throws than he missed.

O'Neal finished 6-for-11 at the foul line — a major improvement over his 7-for-20 showing in a victory at Toronto two nights earlier.

Timberwolves 93, Jazz 91: Kevin Gammett had 25 points and a key steal in the final minute to help host Minnesota to its fifth straight victory.

Hornets 95, 76ers 95 (OT): At New Orleans, P.J. Brown scored six of his season-high 20 points in overtime, and had 10 rebounds for the Hornets.

The 76ers were without NBA-leading scorer Allen Iverson, sitting out a second straight game with a strained left shoulder.

Kings 117, Rockets 111 (OT): At Houston, Chris Webber scored 30 points, including a three-point shot to force overtime, and Sacramento beat the Houston.

Mike Bibby added 28 points

and 14 assists for the Kings, who played without Peja Stojakovic for the second straight game.

Trail Blazers 90, Clippers 86: Damon Stoudamire had 18 of his 22 points in the second half, and host Portland rallied.

Elton Brand had 26 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers, who have lost six straight and nine of 10 on the road. The Clippers haven't won in Portland since 1999.

Nets 109, Lakers 103: At Los Angeles, Vince Carter scored 18 of his 30 points in the third quarter, and Jason Kidd had 15 points and 11 assists for short-handed New Jersey.

Already missing leading scorer Richard Jefferson for the rest of the season because of a wrist injury, New Jersey dressed only eight players.

SuperSonics 88, Warriors 85: Ron Lewis scored 24 points and hit a key jumper with 46 seconds left, and Ray Allen had 26 points for visiting Seattle.

Calbert Cheaney scored 14 of his season-high 21 points in the second quarter for the Warriors, who lost for the 13th time in 14 games.

NBA
roundup

American Ruggiero adds a lady's touch to men's pro hockey

By KELLY KURT
The Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — Angela Ruggiero was ready to play some hockey, and it didn't matter that she had to mix it up with men.

Ruggiero became the first woman to make more than a token appearance at a position other than goalie in a U.S. men's professional hockey game, playing defense and getting an assist Friday night for the Tulsa Oilers. "There was definitely a lot of contact, but it was all clean. That's hockey," she said. "It's a rough game."

Seconds after being checked on her third shift of the night, Ruggiero responded by slamming a Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees player into the boards. At 5 feet 9 and 185 pounds, Ruggiero is known for doling out punishment in women's games, holding Harvard's season record for penalty minutes at 74.

Former U.S. goalie Erin Whitten skated for 18 seconds at forward for the Colorado Avalanche in the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Two-time Olympian Ruggiero and her brother, Bill, the goaltender for the Oilers, made hockey history as the first brother and sister to play together in a North American pro game.

Restless and sweating following 6 minutes, 33 seconds of ice time after the first period, Ruggiero said she didn't want to stop. "I wish I could play the whole game and come back tomorrow," she said.

After her wish at the start of the third period when both coaches and the Central Hockey League agreed to let her return to the ice with the Oilers leading 4-0. In her last shift, she fired a pass to Jason Bermingham, who scored in the Oilers' 7-2 victory.

Although she was in the starting lineup, the CHL originally limited Ruggiero's playing time to the first period because she was an extra on the Oilers' roster.

Ruggiero said her nerves had settled by her second shift.

Ruggiero was cheered on by a crowd packed with young girls taking advantage of free tickets. A portion of the ticket receipts benefited the American Red Cross tsunami relief fund.

But this was no exhibition.

Friday night counted in the standings, and the victory kept the Oilers (22-15-3) three points out of first place in the league's Northeast Division.

"I think it's great for our momentum," said Oilers coach Butch Kabeel, who earlier said he had no reservations about signing Ruggiero for the one-time appearance.

Her résumé spans 19 years. The 25-year-old skater, who won gold and silver medals as a member of the 1998 and 2002 U.S. Women's Olympic teams, was the second woman to play in the league.

Whitten played four games in goal for the Dallas Freeze in 1993-94. In 1992, Canada's Manon Rheume made history as the first woman to play in the NHL when she tended goal for the Tampa Bay Lightning in a pre-season game. Another Canadian, Hayley Wickenheiser, became the first woman to score in a men's game, getting a goal in the Finnish League in 2003. Barbara Zemann debuted at goalie for an Austrian team last year.

Ruggiero grew up playing hockey with boys, and in recent years honed her skills by joining her brother on summer league teams.

"I'm used to getting hit," she said, a bright and intact smile betraying her participation in games she says are "a second quicker" and more physical than the women's sport.

She has never broken a bone or tooth playing hockey — her own, anyway.

In her senior year in college, Ruggiero ranked eighth in the country in scoring with 25 goals and 30 assists for Harvard. But on Friday, she focused on defense.

The tandem appearance with her brother was his idea after she skated with the team in practice during a December visit.

"There were years where we didn't even get the chance to see each other play because of our schedules," Bill Ruggiero said. "The chance to get to actually see each other and play on the same team together is so special."

When they were children in Simt Valley, Calif., their father at first signed up only Bill for youth hockey. But within a month, he was taking advantage of a family discount when Angela, and another sister, Pamela, also wanted to get on the ice.

Angela found her heroes on the Los Angeles Kings, rooting for Wayne Gretzky, Marty McSorley and Tony Granato.

"There were no women's players I knew of," she said. "I didn't even know women's hockey existed."



Phil Mickelson tees off on the 14th hole at the PGA West Palmer Course in La Quinta, Calif. Mickelson trails the leader by seven shots.

Duke economics major stays ahead of the field

The Associated Press

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Jo Ogilvie keeps selling himself short.

After shooting a 6-under 66 Friday to go to 23-under in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, he downplayed his round.

"I got lucky, basically. The way I played, 66 was a gift," said Ogilvie, who holds a two-shot lead over Australian Peter Lonard.

A former Duke economics major who plays the market and lists among his heroes Warren Buffett and Bill Gates, Ogilvie was asked how he would rate his shot through three rounds of the five-day tournament.

"Probably overrated," he said, laughing. "I'd probably be a buyer if I was at even par, but not at 23-under."

"There's not a whole lot to go off if you're 23-under. I'd try to buy low and sell high."

Ogilvie shot 63 a day earlier and said then that, while he was leading "score-wise" with a three-shot edge over Phil Mickelson, he considered Mickelson "technically" in the lead. That was because Mickelson already had played the more difficult of the four courses used for the tournament.

Defending champion Mickelson, also the 2002 winner, wasn't in the lead technically or otherwise after 54 holes, with his 70 dropping him seven shots behind Ogilvie.

Fredrik Jacobson of Sweden remained closest with a 67 that left him third at 19-under.

Craig Stadler, who won the Hope in 1980 for his first tour victory, moved into contention with a 65 that put him in a group with Mickelson at 16-under, seven shots behind Ogilvie.

Stadler said he probably would have skipped the Hope if his son, Kevin, wasn't also in the field. Kevin Stadler was 5-under through 54 holes.

"I think he's kind of hot that I keep scoring better than he does every day," Craig said. "I'd much rather give all my birdies to him."

Hopefully, he'll put six or seven (birdies) together tomorrow and be good enough to make the cut."

Golf roundup

Ogilvie made much of his own luck during the third round, rolling in birdie putts of 20, 15, 25, 18 and 22 feet on his first nine holes.

He began his round on the back nine at Tamarisk Country Club and made the turn in 5-under-31. He made two birdies and a bogey over his last nine holes.

"I easily could have shot 37 instead of 31," he said of the first nine, where his drives were off-target. "I could easily have bogeyed three out of my first five holes. On the back side of Tamarisk, they've got white soldiers — out-of-bounds stakes — on both sides of the fairways."

"Every time I looked up, I saw out-of-bounds stakes, so it wasn't the greatest mental picture I've ever had. But I got away with it." Davis Love III had 11 birdies and on his way to a 61 that vaulted him from a 66th-place tie into a tie for seventh at 11-under.

David Duval shot a third-round 85. After an opening 82 and a 79 the second day, Duval is 30-over.

Irwin leads Turtle Bay

KAHUKU, Hawaii — Hale Irwin got off to a fast start in his bid for a fifth straight victory in the Turtle Bay Championship, shooting 5-under 67 for a share of the first-round lead in the Champions Tour event.

The 59-year-old Irwin, seeking his sixth overall victory in the event, was tied with Keith Ferugia, Gil Morgan and Allen Doyle.

Dana Quigley, who won the MasterCard Championship last week, was one stroke back along with Bob Gilder, Wayne Levi, Jim Thorpe and Gary McCord.

Gary Player shot his age, a 3-under 69.

Dougherty ahead in Singapore

SINGAPORE — Nick Dougherty shot a 4-under 68 Saturday to remain in first place through three rounds of the Caltex Masters.

Dougherty was two strokes ahead of defending champion Colin Montgomerie (69) and Denmark's Thomas Bjorn (67).

Navy ends eight-game hoops slide

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — George O'Garra ignited Navy on Friday with career highs of 24 points and

11 rebounds in a 79-67 victory over Colgate that snapped an eight-game losing streak.

O'Garra's point total was a season-high for the Midshipmen (5-14, 1-5 Patriot League), who also got 15 points and eight rebounds from Matt Fannin and 13 points from David Hooper.

The Mids, which led 39-33 at halftime, went on an 11-0 run midway through the second half. It was capped by a three-point play by David Hooper that gave them a 58-44 bulge with 9:46 to play. The Mids increased their lead to 16 with four minutes to play.

Navy had a big advantage at the foul line, making 24 of 35 free throws while Colgate had just nine free throws. O'Garra was 10-for-13 from the line and 7-for-11 from the floor.

Navy forced 24 turnovers and tied its team-high this season with 16 assists.

Navy's top scorer this season, Laramie Mergerson, returned to the lineup after sitting out five games with a hand injury and had 9 points in 20 minutes.

Jon Simon led Colgate (8-11, 3-3) with 15 points.

Lehigh blows out Army

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — Nick Monsere scored 20 points and Jose Olivero added 19 points and nine rebounds as Lehigh beat Army 63-45 Friday night.

Lehigh (10-9, 4-2 Patriot League) opened the game with a 23-6 run. But Army (3-15, 1-5) closed the half with a 14-2 run to cut Lehigh's lead to seven.

The Black Knights made just seven of 24 field-goal attempts in the second half, shot 35 percent for the game and were outrebounded 39-20.

Colin Harris led Army with 18 points, while Matt Bell scored 13.

Pistons coach fined \$35,000 for criticizing officials

NEW YORK — Detroit Pistons coach Larry Brown was fined \$35,000 by the NBA on Saturday for criticizing officials after a loss to Minnesota on Monday.

Following Detroit's 86-83 loss, Brown complained that goaltending wasn't called when Minnesota's Eddie Griffin fouled during an attempt by Carlos Arroyo with 25 seconds remaining. He also said the Timberwolves should have been whistled several times for fouling the backcourt.

"It's not fair. It's a joke. This has been happening too much," Brown said.

Slutskaia wins sixth European figure skating title

TURIN, Italy — Irina Slutskaya performed a lachuterie free program Saturday but held her lead to win her sixth European title, matching the records of figure skating greats Katarina Witt and Sonja Henie.

Angela Ruggiero, center, who played on the past two women's U.S. Olympic teams, became the first woman to play a position other than goalie in a U.S. men's pro hockey game.



Miller strikes gold as worlds open

American star holds off three Austrians with a rousing effort

BY ANDREW DAMPF
The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — Bode Miller won the super giant slalom Saturday to open the Alpine World Ski Championships, gaining his first victory in six weeks despite near-jumping off the course mid-way through his run.

Miller, who plans to race all six events in the worlds, covered the Stelvio course in 1 minute, 27.55 seconds to gain his sixth medal in world championships and Olympic competition.

He was followed by three Austrians: Michael Walchhofer, 0.14 seconds behind; Benjamin Raich, second to Miller in the overall World Cup standings, 0.88 back; and Hermann Maier, 0.85 behind.

Miller's American teammate, Daron Rahvles, the 2001 Super-G world champion, was 10th.

"It feels good. It has been awhile," Miller said. "It wasn't the best of runs, but when I came down and crossed the finish I thought I would be lucky to hang



Bode Miller shows off the gold medal he earned for winning Saturday's super-G, the opening event of the Alpine World Ski Championships.

on to a top-three. I was surprised to have won."

He usually focuses more on skiing well than posting a good result.

"But sometimes you just have to take the result," he said. "On a day where no one had a perfect run and you were the best, it's still a good feeling."

Miller began the season by piloting six victories in the first 10

to a top-three. I was surprised to have won."

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"But sometimes you just have to take the result," he said. "On a day where no one had a perfect run and you were the best, it's still a good feeling."

Miller began the season by piloting six victories in the first 10

ried for second with Maier behind super-G winner Stephan Eberharter, an Austrian who retired after last season.

This race lived up to its billing as a duel between Austrians and Americans, with the elite portion coming down to the final five skiers, all from the two countries.

Raich started No. 26 and posted the fastest time to that point.

Then came Miller with the No. 27 job, showing his usual unorthodox, flailing form but skiing far faster than anyone else all the way through.

Walchhofer was next and held a 0.04-second lead on Miller at the final split, only to succumb to a slight slip in the final section.

"I'm so happy because my super-G is never as good as my downhill," said Walchhofer, who will defend his downhill world title next Saturday. "It was important — two medals. There is a lot of pressure in Austria for skiing."

Rahvles started 29th but was behind by the first checkpoint and lost more time as he made his way to the finish.

Maier, who won a super-G in Kitzbuehel, Austria, on Monday, was the final top skier of the starting hut. He was in position for a top-three finish at the last split, but he also lost a lot of time on the final section featuring a jump just before the finish line.

The women's super-G is Sunday in nearby Santa Caterina Valfurva.

Alpine World Ski Championships

Men's Super-G Stelvio Course (1.3 miles) Bormio, Italy

1. Bode Miller, United States, 1:27.55, 27.55 seconds.
2. Michael Walchhofer, Austria, 1:27.69.
3. Benjamin Raich, Austria, 1:28.23.
4. Hermann Maier, Austria, 1:28.35.
5. Marco Buechel, Liechtenstein, 1:28.61.
6. Florian Eder, Germany, 1:28.69.
7. Axel Lind Svendsen, Norway, 1:29.16 (tie) Didier Defago, Switzerland, 1:29.16.
8. David Poisson, France, 1:29.24.
9. Daron Rahvles, United States, 1:29.25.
10. Lasse Kjus, Norway, 1:29.33.
11. Andreas Höffmann, Switzerland, 1:29.35.
12. François Bourque, Canada, 1:29.57.
13. Patrick Frey, Italy, 1:29.58.
14. Bruno Kernen, Switzerland, 1:29.60.
15. Tobias Grünenfelder, Switzerland, 1:29.61.
16. Andrej Jeren, Slovenia, 1:29.64.
17. Bjarne Sollbakken, Norway, 1:29.67.
18. Erik Gjerstad, Canada, 1:29.74.
19. Kurt Sutterbach, Italy, 1:29.80.
20. Stephen Georg, Austria, 1:29.81.
21. Kjell Andre Aamodt, Norway, 1:29.96.
22. Finlay Mickel, Britain, 1:30.11.
23. Alex Gora, Slovenia, 1:30.18.
24. John Kucera, Canada, 1:30.22.
25. Ondrej Bank, Czech Republic, 1:30.26.
- (tie) Patrik Järby, Sweden, 1:30.28.
26. Scott Macartney, United States, 1:30.32.
27. Andreas Gredler, Austria, 1:30.45.
28. Lule Denne, Germany, 1:30.48.
29. Michael Reiter, Liechtenstein, 1:30.47.
30. Pierre-Emmanuel Dalcin, France, 1:30.47.
31. Doreen Spencer, United States, 1:30.70.
32. Borek Zakouřil, Czech Republic, 1:31.08.
33. Petr Zahradský, Czech Republic, 1:31.09.
34. Pavel Chesnokov, Russia, 1:31.20.
35. Michael Reiter, Liechtenstein, 1:31.58.
36. Patrick Frey, Austria, 1:31.62.
37. Sergei Komarov, Russia, 1:31.85.
38. Dmitri Ulanov, Russia, 1:32.03.
39. Robert Crundick, Britain, 1:32.24.
40. Michael Reiter, Liechtenstein, 1:32.25.
41. Bernard Vierge, Slovenia, 1:32.82.
42. Claudio Serecher, Liechtenstein, 1:32.82.
43. Alex Antor, Andorra, 1:32.94.

After 38 tries, Washington St. finally gets it right

The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Thomas Kelati made a career-high seven three-pointers, the last with 50.4 seconds to play, and Washington State stunned No. 11 Arizona 70-63 on Saturday, ending a 38-game losing streak against the Wildcats.

Kelati, who matched his career high of 27 points set against Arizona last season, sealed the victory by making two free throws with 32.1 seconds left.

Washington State (9-9, 4-5 Pac-10) lost best coach Lute Ol-

Men's Top 25 Roundup

son's Wildcats on Jan. 30, 1986, 65-63 in overtime in Pullman. Washington State broke a 20-game losing streak in Tucson and defeated a ranked opponent for the first time in 49 tries.

The Cougars scored the last seven points of the game after a steal led to Mustafa Shakur's breakaway stuff that tied it at 63 with 1:12 remaining.

Kelati, 7-for-9 from three-point range, sank his final three-pointer to put Washington State up for good. Salim Stoudamire missed a three-pointer, and Kelati was fouled and made two free throws to send Washington State on its way to coach Dick Bennett's biggest upset in his two seasons with the Cougars.

Arizona (17-4, 7-2) came out flat for the non-tiempo after an intense 91-82 victory over No. 10 Washington on Thursday night. That victory had put the Wildcats alone in first place in the Pac-10, but Washington can move back into a tie by winning at Arizona State on Sunday.

No. 1 Illinois 89, Minnesota 66: At Champaign, Ill., Roger Powell Jr. scored 21 points and Deron Williams added 18 for Illinois (21-0, 7-0 Big Ten). The Illini opened the game with a 10-1 run and stretched their conference winning streak to 17 games, tying

a school record set from 1914-16. James Augustine had 15 points and seven rebounds, and Luther Head scored 10.

Minnesota (14-3, 4-3) had trouble with the Illini defense from the start, committing turnovers on its first two possessions. The Golden Gophers were led by Vincent Grier, who scored 17 points.

Powell opened the game with a layup after a nice feed from Dee Brown and scored seven of Illi-nois' first 12 points. Williams hit a jumper, Head and Powell made three-pointers and Powell sank two free throws to give the Illini a 12-4 lead with 16:34 to go in the first half.

Illinois led 47-26 at the break and Minnesota got no closer than 18 points after that.

No. 7 North Carolina 110, Virginia 76: North Carolina ended five years of frustration at Virginia on Saturday, blowing out the Cavaliers from the opening tip. Jawad Williams scored 23 points on 8-for-10 shooting, Sean May had 20 and Raymond Felton 16 for the Tar Heels (17-2, 6-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), who won for only the fourth time in the teams' 11 meetings. North Carolina hadn't won in Charlottesville since Feb. 20, 1999.

North Carolina led 62-26 at halftime, hit triple digits on the scoreboard with 4 minutes left and went 14-for-23 from three-point range. They also had 60 percent for the game and outscored the Cavaliers 45-26.

J.R. Reynolds led Virginia (10-8, 1-7) with 18 points.

The Tar Heels went on a 26-3 run over 8½ minutes for a final half to build a 42-11 lead.

No. 5 Wake Forest 94, Miami 82: At Winston-Salem, N.C., Eric Williams had 23 points and 11 rebounds and reserve Trent Strickland added a season-high 13 points as Wake Forest beat Miami despite getting only eight points from Chris Paul.

Justin Gray finished with 20 points and the Demon Deacons (17-3, 5-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) cruised in the second half to improve to 10-0 at home less than 48 hours after a 102-101 overtime loss at Georgia Tech. Jamaal Levy scored 15 points.

A winter storm dropped several inches of snow and ice in Winston-Salem, leaving several hundred empty seats at Lawrence Joel Coliseum. Wake Forest's defense also was a no-show in the first half, allowing the Hurricanes (13-6, 4-1) to shoot 56 percent — including 91 percent (10-for-11) on three-pointers — and take a 49-48 lead at the break.

LSU 69, No. 24 Mississippi State 62: At Baton Rouge, La., Brandon Bass had 26 points, 11 rebounds and a handle on Mississippi State star Lawrence Roberts.

Bass and Glen Davis teamed up to limit Roberts, the Southeastern Conference's leading scorer, to a rebounder, to 15 points and 12 rebounds. Roberts entered the game averaging 18.8 points a game.

Mississippi State (16-5, 4-3),

Thomas Kelati, right, and Josh Alogoski celebrate Washington State's 70-63 upset of Arizona.

which once had the nation's longest road winning streak at 16 straight, has lost three in a row away from Starkville, Miss.

LSU (11-6, 4-2) took the lead early in the second half and led thereafter.

Darrell Mitchell scored 20 points for LSU and Bass added five blocks.

Walter Sharpe scored 12 points for Mississippi State and Gary Ervin had 10.

Roberts was 3-for-11 from the field but made nine of 11 free throws. The Bulldogs were 2-for-10 from three-point range.

'Bama-Georgia game postponed

The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — No. 14 Alabama's game against Georgia scheduled for Saturday night was postponed until Sunday night because of freezing rain in Georgia.

Georgia's team was unable to leave Atlanta because of the icy conditions. Freezing rain and sleet spread sheets of ice across parts of the Southeast, shutting down sections of every interstate highway in the metro Atlanta area and canceling hundreds of airline flights.

Both teams agreed to the postponement, the Southeastern Conference said.

SPORTS

Sources: Cubs, Orioles close on Sosa deal

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Chicago Cubs were close to agreement on a trade to send unhappy slugger Sammy Sosa to the Baltimore Orioles, several high-ranking baseball officials told The Associated Press.

Medical tests and approval from Commissioner Bud Selig and the players' association remain unresolved, the officials said Friday night, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The Cubs would pay a substantial part of Sosa's \$17 million salary this season, the executives said. Sosa would agree to void his salary scheduled for 2006, they also said.

Chicago would receive second baseman Jerry Hairston Jr. and at least two prospects.

Sosa's contract gives the Cubs an \$18 million option in 2006 with a \$4.5 million buyout. But the contract says that if he is traded, his 2006 salary would become guaranteed and a 2007 club option would be added at \$19 million with a \$4.5 million buyout.

The players' association previously told Sosa's agent, Adam Katz, that voiding the 2007 option would not be a problem if Sosa is traded.

"I haven't spoken with anybody about the particulars, but from what I understand in all conversations that what was being discussed was cleared a while back," said Gene Orza, the union's chief operating officer.

The teams had not finalized a deal, the executives said.

Selig's approval is necessary because the trade would involve the



The Chicago Cubs have been trying to trade Sammy Sosa since the season finale, when he left Wrigley Field during the game.

transfer of \$1 million or more. Sosa also must waive his no-trade clause.

Orioles executive vice president Jim Beattie and vice president Mike Flanagan could not be reached for comment. Cubs spokesman Sharon Panazzo could not be reached for comment and Katz declined to comment.

Friday afternoon, the Cubs also were talking to the Washington Nationals about a deal to send Sosa to the new team in the nation's capital.

The Cubs have been looking for a taker for Sosa since the end of the season, when he skipped out on the finale at Wrigley Field.

Sosa initially claimed he didn't leave until the seventh inning, but the Cubs produced videotapes showing him leaving shortly after the game began and fined him \$87,500 — one day's salary.

SEE SOSA ON PAGE 26



Karl makes successful debut
as Denver coach with victory over
team that fired him in '03, Page 28

Miller starts strong in worlds



Bode Miller of the United States, who hadn't won a race in six weeks, won the gold medal in the men's super-G in the World Alpine Skiing Championships on Saturday in Bormio, Italy. See story on Page 31.

Serena Williams
battles back from
injury, dropped
first set to defeat
Davenport for
women's title
in Australian Open

Page 27



Eagles receiver
Mitchell filling in
for Owens
on field,
irking Patriots'
defense with
brash comments

Page 29



Washington State
stages an upset
at 11th-ranked
Arizona;
No. 1 Illinois,
No. 3 No. Carolina
win easily

Page 31

U.S. female Olympian makes history on ice Page 30

